ERC denies Napocor bid to raise power rates

STORY ON PAGE A2

Spare kid, hold rod

SPANKING may get a child's attention right away, but it can cause children to become aggressive and possibly even abusive adults, American researchers reported on Tuesday.

Spanking has

SPARE/A16

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ANTI-JUETENG DRIVE

7 top PNP officers axed

By Leila Salaveria

THE MULTIBILLION-PESO illegal numbers game that led to the downfall of President Joseph Estrada yesterday cost seven police officials their posts.

Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya and Director Avelino Razon Jr. were ordered relieved yesterday by the National Police Commission (Napolcom) for their failure to eradicate "jueteng" and other forms of illegal gambling in their areas of jurisdiction.

Aglipay is the head of the National Capital Region Police Office, Berroya of the Central Luzon Police Office, and Razon of the Central Visayas Police Office.

Also ordered relieved were Director Domingo A. Reyes of Southern Tagalog, Senior Supt. Leonilo de la Cruz of Laguna, Senior Supt. Jose Antonio Salvacion of Cebu and Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr. of the Western Police District.

"We have not prejudged the matter that they are on the take," Interior Secretary Jose Lina, chair of Napolcom, said yesterday.

Lina had warned that heads would roll in various PNP commands if jueteng proliferated in their areas.

Jueteng is a lucrative business. In 1995, then Rep. Roilo Golez, now national security adviser, said jueteng syndicates were collecting a total of P60 million a day or P22 billion a year.

Thirty percent of the amount goes to the pockets of police and government officials for protection, according to

7TOP/A16

DEPUTY Dir. Gen. Edgar Aglipay: Metro Manila police director

CHIEF Supt. Reynaldo Berroya: Central Luzon police director

DIRECTOR Avelino Razon: Central Visayas police director

CHIEF Supt. Nicolas Pasinos: Manila police chief

'What a way to go ... It's painful, too painful'

PAINFUL. A mistake. No due process.

These were some of the reactions of the seven police officers to an order relieving them of their posts in connection with the government's drive against "jueteng," an illegal numbers game.

"In my 32 years in the service . . . what a way to go. *Masakit yun eh, napakasakit* (It's painful, too painful) as a senior officer in the government," Chief Supt. Avelino Razon, police director for Central Visayas, said.

"We have been following the policies of the government, all of a sudden we are hit by something like this. *Wag naman*," he added.

Senior Supt. Jose Antonio Salvacion, Cebu provincial police director, said the relief was unfair to him "as a person and as a professional police officer."

He said in an interview over RGMA-7 Balitang Bistak that he believed that he was just a "victim of politics." He did not explain.

Razon lamented that no investigation was conducted before he and the other officers were ordered relieved.

He said he learned from the media about his relief because none of his superiors had informed him about it.

"*Nagulat ako* (I was surprised), when I got a call from General (PNP chief Leandro) Mendoza, *doon ko na-*

WHAT/A16

DEAD ISSUE

GMA calls off search for Sabaya's body

By Carlito Pablo
and Martin Marfil

AFTER viewing US spy plane footage of Friday's encounter, in which Abu Sabaya is believed to have been killed, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday called off the search for the bandit leader's body.

But the government is not withdrawing the P50,000 reward for anyone who can find Sabaya's remains, the President quickly added. She also ordered a small military team to continue looking, possibly in collaboration with US Navy SEALS.

But her order, which she announced in remarks before a conference of Christian business leaders, was overshadowed by her candid revelations about the use of military technology only seen in Hollywood movies.

The President said the spy planes "showed it all (the sea chase and ensuing gun battle) because they recorded it" by using heat and infrared sensors.

She was apparently referring to un-

GMA/A16

Gloria says bearers of bad news 'false prophets'

By Dona Pazzibugan
and Clarissa Batino

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday reacted to news reports about the most recent Pulse Asia survey—which found that one of every five Filipinos wanted to leave the country, which they see as "hopeless"—by reaching into her store of Biblical quotations. She likened media outlets which ran negative news to the "false prophets" whom Jesus Christ warned about.

She singled out the INQUIRER for headlining the latest survey results the other day. The newspaper, Ms Macapagal said, could have emphasized that 60 percent of the population did not want to emigrate. Twenty percent were undecided, while 19 percent said they wanted to leave—up from 14 percent in previous surveys.

"Of course we have to see the other side of the news," Ms Macapagal said at a breakfast meeting with the Brotherhood of Christian Businessmen and Professionals in Makati City yesterday.

She quoted a passage from the Bible, where Jesus Christ told his disciples: "Beware of false prophets."

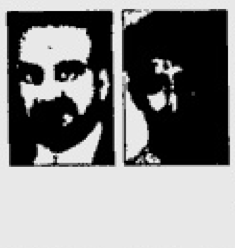
"Now who are the false prophets?" she asked. "I would say that in this world today, they include those who give only the bad news to the extent that if the bad news is so pervasive it

GLORIA/A17

Al-Qaida terror chief had a hand in many operations

Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, the alleged mastermind behind the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, has a long resume of organizing terrorist attacks. A sampling of plots, both executed and foiled, to date:

The players The plots	Khalid Shaikh Mohammed *Born in Kuwait, Pakistani citizen*	Ramzi Yousef *Born in Kuwait, Pakistani citizen*	Abdul Hakim al Hashim Murad *Born in Kuwait, Pakistani citizen*
1993: Bombing of the World Trade Center Six people were killed.	U.S. officials believe Mohammed worked with Yousef to plan the bombing.	Arrested in 1995 for his role as a conspirator in this attack, he is serving a life sentence.	
1995: Plot to kill the pope The plan to assassinate Pope John Paul II with a pipe bomb during a visit to the Philippines.	Mohammed supervised planning, according to interrogations of Murad	A co-conspirator in the plot.	Played a role in planning assassination attack. Arrested in 1995 in the Philippines.
1995: Plot to bomb 11 flights A plot to blow up 11 U.S.-bound airliners from Asian countries, including the Philippines, was foiled.	Charged by U.S. authorities for his role in the 1995 plot.	Accused of planning attack along with Mohammed.	Conspired in the plan to blow up the 11 aircraft.
2001: Sept. 11 attacks on the U.S. More than 3,000 people were killed.	Considered to be chief among Osama bin Laden's lieutenants in organizing the attacks.		
2002: Truck bombing Nineteen people, mostly German tourists, were killed in a Tunisian synagogue on April 11.	U.S. officials believe Mohammed played a role in planning this attack.		



All in the family

Mohammed (left) is the uncle of Yousef (right) and stayed in his Manila apartment between 1994-95. Yousef has known Murad since childhood.

SOURCE: Associated Press

AP

Sept. 11 brains may have planned attacks while in RP

THE SUSPECTED mastermind of the Sept. 11 attacks once courted a dentist in the Philippines and tried to impress her by flying a helicopter over her clinic, according to a top police officer who investigated the al-Qaida network.

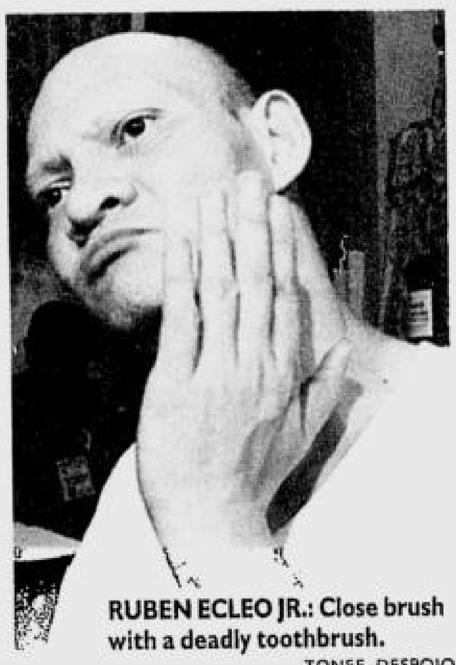
Senior Supt. Rodolfo "Boogie" Mendoza, now the police commander of Pangasinan, said Khalid Shaikh Mohammed also lived lavishly in the country with his nephew Ramzi Yousef, the 1993 World Trade Center plotter.

Mendoza, who once supervised police operations against suspected al-Qaida agents in the country, said Mohammed and Yousef partied and went scuba diving as they planned attacks against Americans.

US counterterrorism officials have said that since Sept. 11, 2001, evidence has mounted that Mohammed was chief among Osama bin Laden's lieutenants organizing the plot that sent hijacked passenger jets crashing into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field, killing more than 3,000 people.

Abu Zubaydah, a senior al-Qaida member now in US custody, has identified Mohammed as the organizer, and investigators have learned he transferred money that was subsequently used in the attacks.

SEPT. 11/A16



RUBEN ECLEO JR.: Close brush with a deadly toothbrush.

TONEE DESPOJO

Ecleo survives knife attack by murder convict

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Tension gripped the Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center here yesterday when a murder convict tried to stab cult leader Ruben Ecleo Jr. with an improvised knife, for no apparent reason.

A jail guard shot and killed the attacker, identified as Avelino Idaño, who ignored his warning shots and continued to go after Ecleo, "supreme master" of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA).

Another inmate, Anastacio Ortiz, was wounded in the left leg as the guard, JO1 Richard Arrofo, and Idaño grappled for the knife fashioned out of Ecleo's toothbrush.

Arrofo said he tried to immobilize Idaño by shooting him in the left arm, but the inmate persisted in his attack, prompting the officer to shoot him in the abdomen.

Another guard, JO1 Cresencio Manlangit, who was assigned in a cell

ECLEO/A17

KARAPAT-DAPAT NA BAWAS

Napocor rate hike denied

By Ronnel W. Domingo

INSTEAD of the 17-centavo per kilowatt-hour rate increase that it was seeking, the National Power Corp. has been ordered by the Energy Regulatory Commission to reduce by 7 centavos per kWh the rate at which it sells power to distribution utilities.

The ERC yesterday handed down its decision on a petition to "unbundle"—or break down—their rates from the Napocor and the National Transmission Corp. which would have resulted in a 17-centavo rate increase.

But the 7-centavo rate reduction would apply only to electricity bought from Napocor, the ERC said.

The commission also decided to treat the Luzon and Visayas transmission grid as one system, resulting in a decrease in transmission charges for the Visayas by 50 centavos per kWh and an increase in Luzon rates by 6 centavos.

Napocor and Transco have been ordered to implement the unbundled generation and transmission rates no later than Sept. 26.

The ERC decision disallowed two key adjustments that Napocor had sought in its petition:

- The inclusion in the rate base (the basis for computing the rate of return) of P37.9 billion in Napocor assets, including non-utility plants, power plants for disposal and power plants leased to others.
- Expenses of at least P8 billion, consisting of depreciation and appreciation costs, and power purchases.

The commission said allowing these two items would force electricity consumers to finance the difference between the original and replacement costs of Napocor's assets.

The ERC explained that generation charges would be subject to periodic changes because of fluctuations in fuel and purchased power costs, but the transmission charges would be fixed until a new application is filed.

The decision on the Napocor/Transco petition was the only one that the ERC was able to hand down despite the mandate from the new Electricity Power Reform Act for it to decide on 140 electricity rate petitions by yesterday.

Meralco, the country's biggest electric distribution utility, has at least three different hike petitions pending at the ERC.

The first is a petition to increase its rates by P1.47 per kWh.

Meralco has also filed with the ERC a petition to "unbundle" its rates, which would have the effect of increasing electricity rates by P1.17 per kWh.

Finally, it has sought the ERC's approval for a 30-centavo per kWh increase in basic charges.

The five-member commission said it decided to act first on the Napocor/Transco petition as Napocor charges comprised more than 75 percent of the total electricity bill charged to customers by most distribution utilities.

Calculations for unbundled distribution rates cannot be finalized without first determining the unbundled Napocor and Transco rates, the ERC added.

The commission earlier said it would decide on the Meralco rate charges by June 30.

Opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara yesterday pointed out four "flaws" in the government's power reduction scheme to take effect next month. These were:

- The 100 percent absorption by electricity end-users of the cost of the P350 billion worth of "onerous" contracts that the government had signed with independent power producers (IPPs).
- The legitimization of 12 "ineligible" IPP contracts worth P200 billion.
- The failure to address the purchased power adjustment (PPA) of the power distributors.
- The failure to put in place reform initiatives which should make the power sector efficient, competitive, transparent and less prone to corruption and shadowy deals. ***With a report from Cynthia D. Balana***

Guingona to DENR? Nothing official yet

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has not talked to Vice President and Foreign Affairs Secretary Teofisto Guingona Jr. about his purported transfer to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"They have not talked about that subject,'" said acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable.

Guingona had said earlier the DENR leadership was offered to him "informally" and "unofficially," as a replacement for Secretary Heherson Alvarez who has repeatedly failed to get the approval of the Commission on Appointments.

"The topic (transfer) has never entered discussions" between Ms Macapagal and Guingona, Afable said.

Asked if Alvarez would soon go, Afable said: "There are no official actions to show that."

Alvarez was re-appointed by President Macapagal on June 5 along with Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez, after both failed to hurdle the CA again. Pantaleon Alvarez resigned a few days later.

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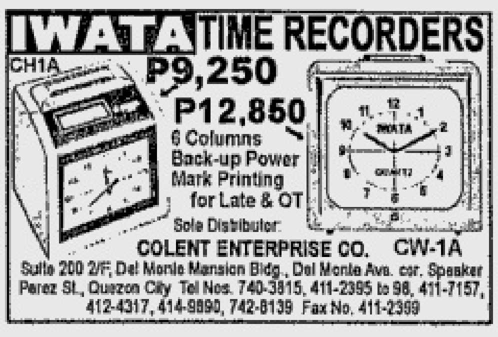
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I greet the organizers of and participants to the ASEMEP 2002 – the 12th National Technical Symposium.

I laud the Semiconductors and Electronics Industries of the Philippines (SEIPI), Association of Semiconductors and Electronic Manufacturing Engineers of the Philippines (ASEMEP), and Fairs and More, Inc. (FMI) for the successful staging of this event. Likewise, the sponsors and participants of ASEMEP 2002 for their valuable contribution to this symposium. Through your combined efforts, we have moved a step forward in making the semiconductor and electronics industry of the Philippines more globally competitive.

This year's theme, *"Creating Opportunities through Technical Excellence, Innovation and Competitiveness,"* speaks well of your commitment to upgrade the standards of the industry and ensure greater productivity. I urge you to keep abreast of the latest trends and concerns in the semiconductor and electronic manufacturing field to help you respond to development challenges with heightened commitment and professionalism.

I hope this gathering will continue to inspire all of you to persevere in building a better future for our people. Let us work together in steering our nation towards greater economic stability.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

MALACAÑAN PALACE
Manila
27 June 2002

On behalf of the Information Technology and E-Commerce Council (ITECC), I would like to welcome you to the 12th National Technical Symposium.

The growth of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) has been astounding. Computers are progressively becoming smaller, faster, and more affordable. And at the core of this technological revolution is the development of the semiconductor and electronics industries.

This event is a testament to the rapid growth of ICT in the Philippines and around the world. But more importantly, it gives us a glimpse of what we can still achieve, of what is yet to come, and of all the greater possibilities. Everyday, the brightest minds all over the world are finding ways to make things smaller, faster, cheaper, and better. This is the promise of ICT.

We have already achieved so many things we once thought were impossible. But we are still at the beginning of this exciting and most fascinating journey. Our best days still lie ahead.

Mabuhay!

Virgilio L. Peña
Presidential Assistant for ICT and
Executive Director, ITECC

A co-founder of a real-estate corporation has once said that, "The real true source of power in any company today is ideas – the rest is housekeeping… Ideas are the DNA of everything worthwhile."

This is a fact for every company that wishes to survive in the fast-paced, technology driven world. At these times when survival is the buzz word in our industry, it is imperative for us to reinvent ourselves. And the best way to reinvention is through planting seeds of creative endeavor.

As we celebrate ASEMEP's 12th Technical Symposium, allow me to congratulate the men and women who contributed their ideas to this important event. These seeds can later grow into remarkable businesses, and will certainly help in uplifting our economy.

I encourage you to continue setting the right example towards reinvention and excellence. Again, congratulations for being part of the few who make things happen!

Norberto A. Viera
President
SEIPI

The year 2001 has proven to be a difficult year for the Philippines and for the semiconductor and electronics industry. Through these difficulties, we have grown better as individuals and as a group, striving to achieve seemingly insurmountable obstacles through unity and ingenuity.

As ASEMEP's outgoing president, I am proud to have steered our organization to creating and developing support programs for our colleagues in the industry. Our theme, "Creating Opportunities Through Technical Excellence, Innovation and Competitiveness", reflects ASEMEP's aim to collectively uplift the industry and to further develop the intellectual capital of our engineers. This, I believe, is a selfless act that serves as a shining example of the Filipino's determination to adapt to the call for globalization and excellence.

I would like to extend my warmest thanks to the companies and sponsors who made this year's symposium a successful reality. You will be not only be remembered as leaders in the semiconductor and electronics industry but also as remarkable organizations who spearheaded the Philippines' efforts to produce qualified engineers and quality corporations.

Here is to the continued success of ASEMEP and the triumph of the 12th National Technical Symposium 2002!

Vio Aguinaldo
ASEMEP Chairman

As the head of the National Technical Symposium Committee, I carry with me the challenge of further leading this activity of ASEMEP to greater heights. With the earnest support of my colleagues in the industry, I know that the feat is not as daunting as it appears to be.

Now is the time for the semiconductors industry to come together and show its vast potential. Now is the time to adapt to change and improvement, and embrace the fast changing demands and technologies of the global market. Above all, now is the time to momentarily forget competition and focus on our collective growth and development.

In behalf of ASEMEP, our sponsors and organizers, we would like to thank all of you for your support and participation in this annual symposium. We are looking forward to forging more strategic alliances, building better business opportunities with the industry and developing our engineers to become examples of competitive advantages for the Philippines.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

Cesar B. Moll
Symposium Organizing Committee Chairman

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More oil firms cut prices

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE "Big Three" dominant oil companies and two new players yesterday followed the lead of two domestic retailers, announcing that they would be slashing their gasoline, diesel and kerosene prices.

Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum and Caltex Phil. announced a 35-centavo cut in pump prices one after the other yesterday.

New players TotalFinaElf and Eastern Petroleum also announced price cuts by 35 and 30 centavos, respectively.

Meanwhile, Seaoil Petroleum Corp., which started the round of price cuts on Tuesday, said that it was reducing its prices by a further five centavos.

On Tuesday, Seaoil and Flying V announced price rollbacks, the first in six months, of 30 centavos and 35 centavos, respectively.

Petron spokesperson Virginia Ruivivar said the company decided to follow the new players' lead after an assessment of the market.

Just the day before, Ruivivar said Petron had no plans of changing its prices.

"In the past two months, we have seen a net decline in crude prices, taking into account the peso-dollar exchange rate," she explained.

Petron, the country's largest oil refiner, said it would lower its prices at 2 p.m. yesterday.

Pilipinas Shell's corporate affairs manager Roberto Kanapi said the company implemented the same price reduction at 4 p.m. yesterday.

Caltex Phil. said its prices had been reduced at 6 p.m. yesterday.

Shell's Kanapi said Petron's move to slash prices accelerated their planned rollback.

On Tuesday, Kanapi said Pilipinas Shell was eyeing a rollback of 15 to 30 centavos per liter in the first week of July.

40 DPWH execs linked to P140-M auto repair scam

By Blanche S. Rivera

AT LEAST 40 officials of the Department of Public Works and Highways are involved in the P139.63-million vehicle repair scam in the graft-ridden agency, initial results of a six-month long investigation showed.

Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong said in a press briefing yesterday that 11 of the 40 officials were "deeply" involved. "If their culpability warrants dismissal from office, then I will have to fire them," he said.

Datumanong said he might seek an authorization from the Commission on Elections to remove or transfer some of the officials despite the ban on movement of government employees during election period, which is effective until July 31.

While he did not give names, Datumanong said the officials involved were from the Central Equipment and Spare Parts Division of the Bureau of Equipment (BoE), Administrative and Manpower Service, and Comptrollership Financial Management Service.

He said he would remove from the investigating team BoE head Abraham Divina and Accounting chief Emily Tanquintic, who were among those implicated.

Another official, Motorpool head Maximo Borje, was in the United States but was expected to be back by July 3, according to the leave he filed at the height of the investigation.

Datumanong said he would submit the investigating team's initial report to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission, to determine what action should be taken against presidential appointees in the list.

The DPWH spent a whopping P139.63 million in 6,928 transactions for the repair of 578 vehicles last year alone. The department officially has 147 motor vehicles and 400 service vehicles, acquired mostly through foreign-assisted projects.

Many of the repairs never really took place, the report said, while others, branded "emergency" repairs, were "not exceptionally urgent or absolutely indispensable."

"Not one of my relatives or friends were involved, and I'm thankful for that," Datumanong said, alluding to earlier reports that his relatives were making money off the DPWH.

He said he would order a thorough inventory of DPWH vehicles and require the BoE to keep a ledger for each vehicle to be maintained, including all background information.

Vehicles whose repairs would cost more than their economic value would be properly disposed of, Datumanong said.

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Cha-cha can't wait for 2004—solon

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE CURRENT political crisis in the Senate has convinced many congressmen Constitutional reforms can no longer wait until 2004, when elections were suggested for delegates to a Constitutional Convention.

Western Samar Rep. Eduardo Nachura said, "Many people are saying that due to recent developments (in the Senate) we need Constitutional reforms more urgently."

The recent political summit by most of the country's political parties at the Manila Hotel had called for the election of Con-con delegates simultaneously with the 2004 Presidential elections. It also called for Charter reforms to take effect in 2010.

Nachura said that because of the perceived urgency, the House committee on Constitutional amendments, which he chairs, would tackle as soon as Congress reopens the various resolutions seeking to convene the legislature into a constituent assembly to amend the Constitution.

Congress' second regular session opens on July 22.

Majority of the representatives favors a constituent assembly, according to a survey taken by the committee last year. The poll showed 105 representatives favored a constituent assembly while only seven preferred a Con-con.

Nachura said the House committee also needs to "touch base" with its counterpart committee in the Senate.

Because Congress is a bicameral legislature, any move to convene a constituent assembly would need the approval of both the House and the Senate.

Senators are wary of moves to amend the charter, however, because among the changes being pushed in the House is the abolition of the Senate in favor of a unicameral legislature.

Sex slaves funds running out

TOKYO—Facing a huge shortfall, a private fund compensating Asian women forced into sexual slavery by Japan's imperial army has asked Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and his Cabinet ministers to contribute cash from their own wallets, a fund official said Tuesday.

The Asian Women's Fund (AWF) wants Koizumi to give 150,000 yen ($1,200) and every Cabinet member 100,000 yen ($800) to help raise money for 290 women who have applied for money from the fund, said an AWF spokesman on condition of anonymity.

The fund promises 2 million yen ($16,000) each in "atonement money" for women from Korea, Taiwan and the Philippines who were forced into sexual slavery by Japan during World War II.

While there has been no response yet, the ministers are expected to comply since it was a Cabinet decision in 1995 that brought the fund into existence, said the official.

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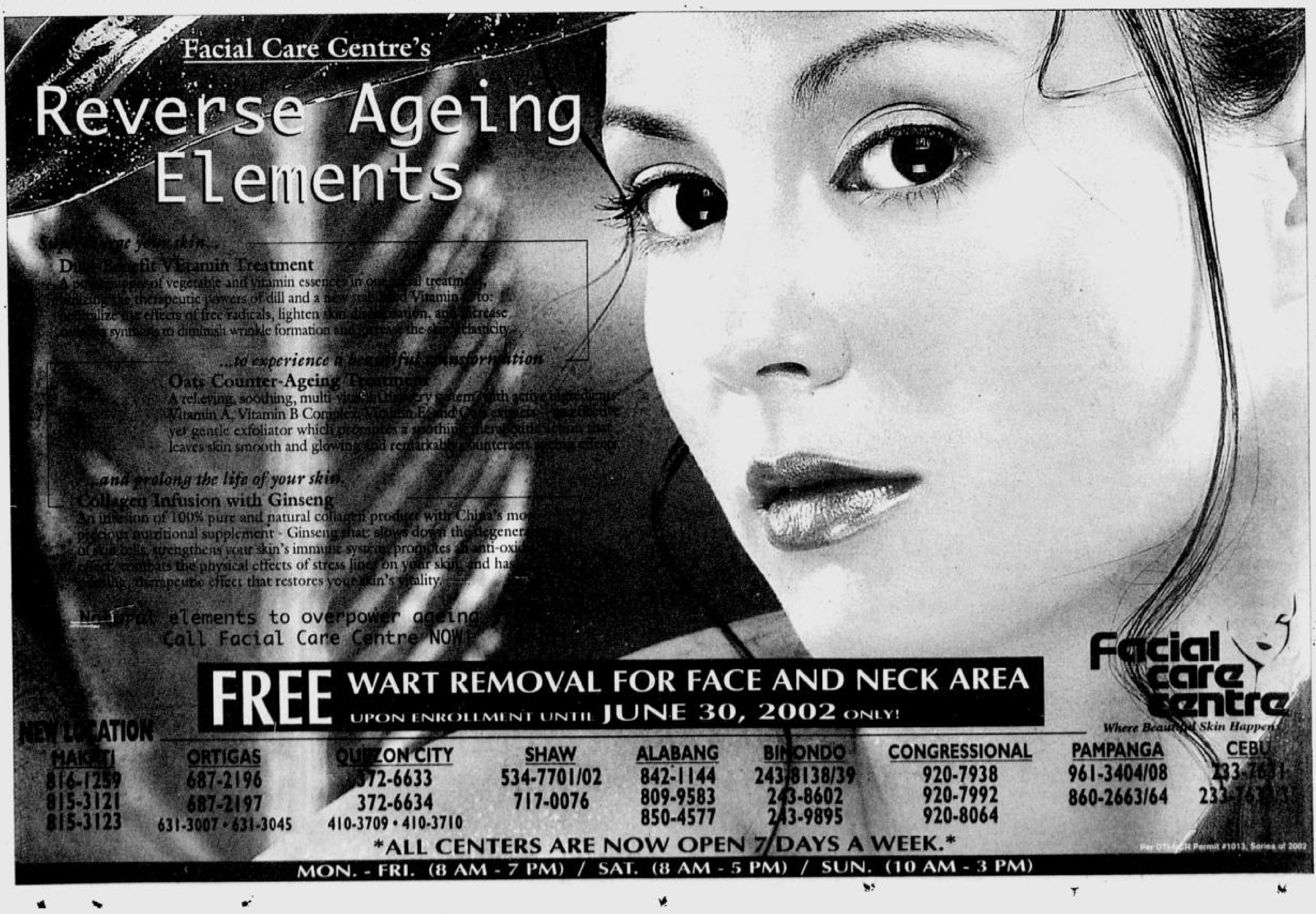

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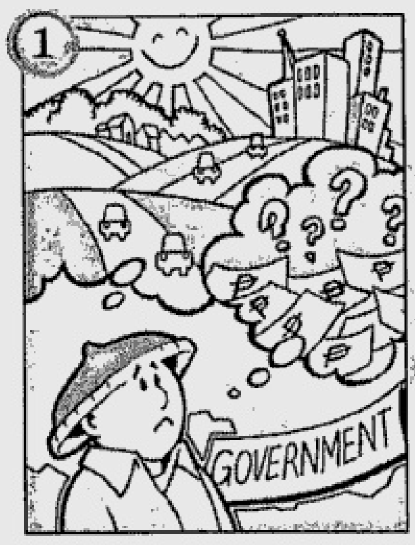
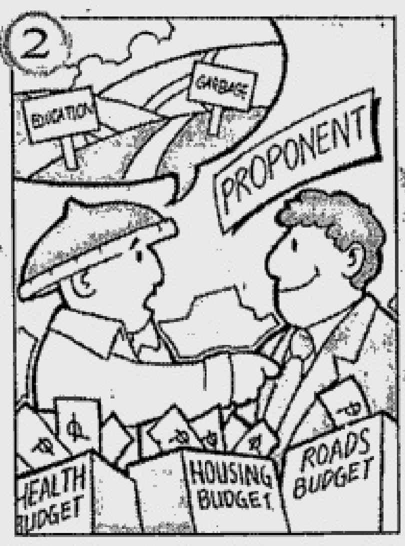
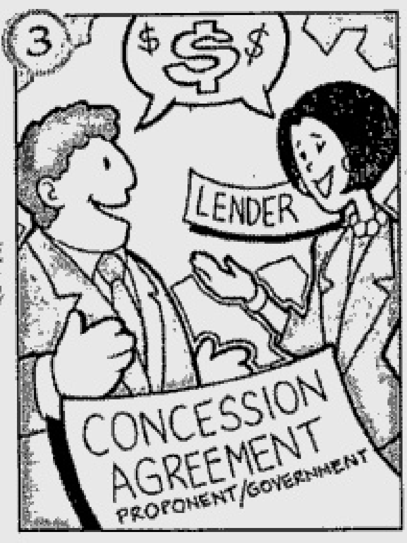


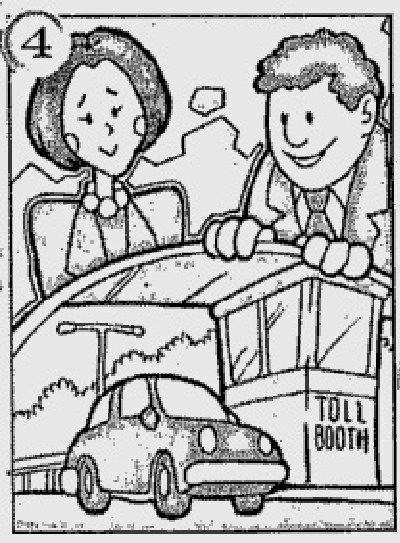
People need roads to get from place to place. Roads bring goods and services to market. Roads also build and strengthen a country's economy. The Government builds roads for the people. To do so, it needs money. A whole lot of it!



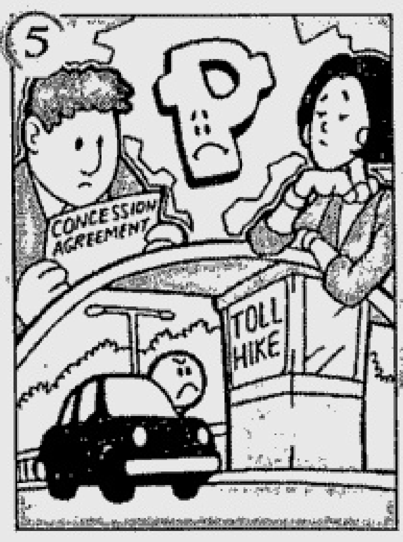
Government gets money by collecting taxes from the people. But it isn't able to collect enough money to build all the roads the people need because the money is used to deliver other basic services to the people. So the Government asks private companies (let's call them Proponents) to build these roads.



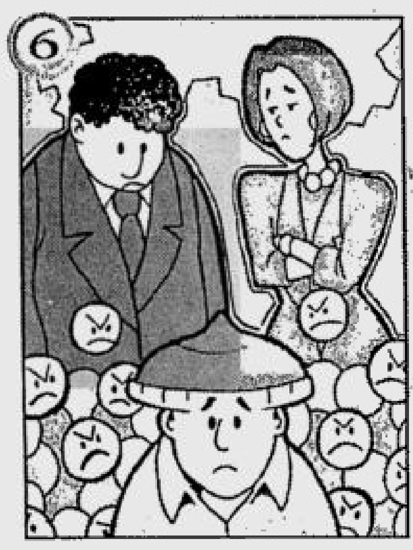
These proponents then enter into special contracts with the Government. With these contracts, they are able to borrow money from local and foreign banks and lending institutions (let's call them Lenders) and use the money to build the new roads.



The lenders want their money back, of course. To be able to pay them off, proponents collect money (called tolls) from motorists who use the new roads they build (called toll roads). The tolls are also used to keep toll roads safe and in tip-top shape compared to the other roads that don't collect tolls.

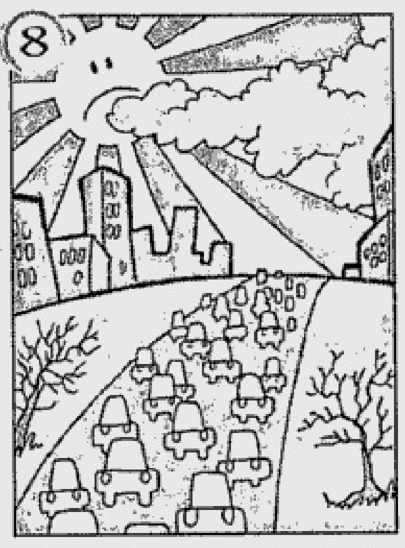


Because the loans are in US dollars, the proponents have to pay in US dollars, too. But the tolls collected are in Philippine pesos. So what happens when the Philippine peso depreciates in value against the US dollar? The proponents are compelled to collect higher tolls from the motorists who use the toll roads. The Government allows the proponents to do so because it is in their special contract.



If proponents are barred from collecting higher tolls, they'll have a heck of a time paying back their loans. If the lenders don't get back their money back, then they would not want to lend money again!

Because the Government doesn't have the money to build new roads, and the lenders aren't interested to lend any money, it makes no sense for proponents to build roads. Very few new roads would be built for the people.



If there are few new roads to handle the ever-growing number of vehicles, more traffic jams will occur. People will have a harder and much longer time getting from place to place. The transfer of goods and services will be painfully slow. *This does not make for a vibrant, bustling economy.*

We don't like to ask for toll increases.

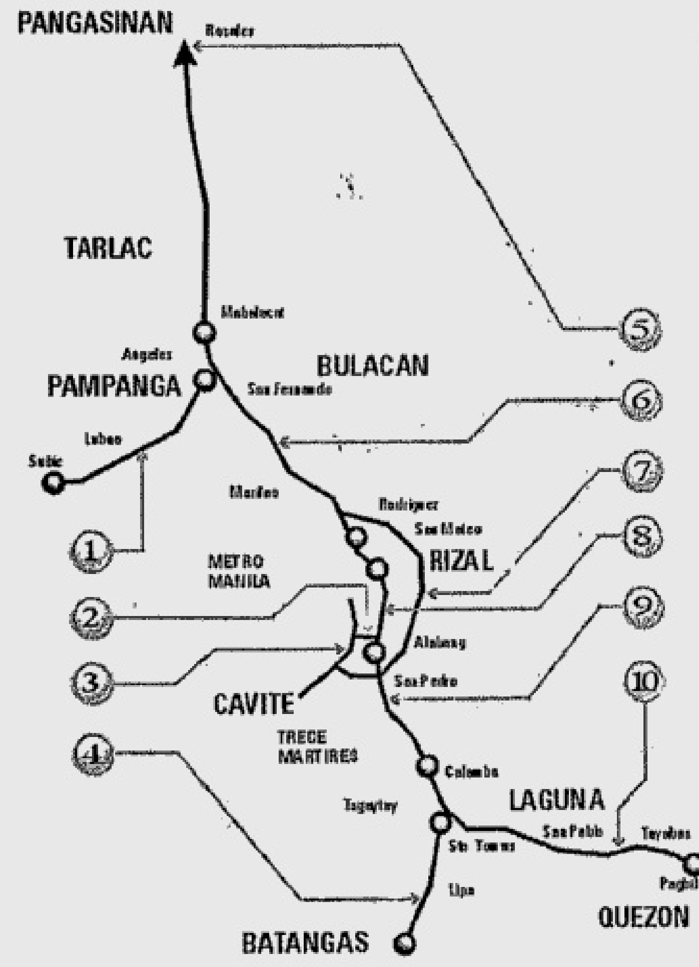
We really don't. But we have to increase tolls from time to time because we need to service the loans used to build the toll roads, and we can't control the changing value of the Philippine peso.

The tolls you pay are not just for the loans. They are also used to maintain the quality and service level of the toll roads. When you use the toll roads, you'll notice that they are better and safer than ordinary roads.

It's unfair to ask all taxpayers to help out because not all of them use the toll roads. Toll increases are always difficult to accept, but if we can show our lenders that we are able to work together to pay back our loans, that we honor our commitments, that we are credit-worthy, we prove to them that investing in the Philippines is not a waste of time and resources. You may not see it now, but there are long-term rewards for our economy and our people in all this!

THE GRAND PLAN

Creating a Mega Manila



1. Clark-Subic Expressway
2. Airport Expressway
3. Manila-Cavite Coastal Road
4. Southern Tagalog Arterial Road
5. North Luzon Expressway Extension
6. North Luzon Expressway (Existing)
7. Metro Manila Tollway - C6
8. Metro Manila Skyway
9. South Luzon Tollway (Existing)
10. South Luzon Tollway (Extension)

Imagine a series of toll roads providing fast and safe travel to motorists from Batangas to Pangasinan, from Subic to Pagbilao. In this scenario, commerce, trade, local tourism will flourish in the areas north and south of Metro Manila. With these interconnecting toll roads, the decentralization of the capital takes one step closer to reality. Eventually, a Mega-Manila will rise.

This is what the Arroyo Government, with the help of the members of the Tollway Association of the Philippines (TAP), wishes to realize. An expanded hub of business and tourism for the island of Luzon, catalyzing economic progress in the surrounding provinces. The construction of new toll roads are part of the Grand Plan to jumpstart the country's economy by bringing livelihood prospects and growth opportunities to the countryside.

These toll roads, however, cannot be constructed without the help of loans from foreign and domestic lenders. And the only way to convince lenders that the Philippines is worth investing in is to prove that we are able to work together to fulfill our obligations to them. A good credit standing with these lenders will encourage them to invest in other vital infrastructure projects that will contribute positively to the country's future and to the welfare of its people.

Key points in government decision to honor its contractual commitments

In the absence of government and taxpayers' subsidies, the toll road project relies only on the tolls it collects from its users. The common concession for private toll road developers in the Philippines is that they are allowed to raise their toll rates on both interim and periodic bases.

Take the case of the Metro Manila Skyway Project. Because of its contract with the government, which is embodied in the Supplemental Toll Operation Agreement (STOA), the Skyway Project's investors are entitled to an interim toll rate adjustment in the event of a significant currency devaluation such as that which occurred between 1995 and in 2001. Since 1995, the peso has depreciated by almost 100% from $1:P26 to $1:P51.

In view of such currency devaluation, the peso equivalent of the Project's dollar loans used to fund the Skyway construction and the rehabilitation of its at-grade section has increased significantly, thereby adversely affecting the Project's capability to repay these loans.

If the government cannot uphold its obligations and contracts with private sector investors for its infrastructure program, particularly in allowing the needed toll adjustments, it cannot expect to attract or retain private investors to participate in BOT infrastructure projects that are necessary for the growth of the economy.

The common concession carries a provision for default against contracting parties, In the case of the toll issue, the suspension or lowering of approved toll rates could lead to the Project's failure to generate the sufficient income to pay off its debts, to properly operate and maintain the toll road, and pursue other phases of the project for a total traffic solution.

Under the contract, the Project's failure to repay its debt could lead the lenders to declare the Project in default. In turn, the government could take over the Project and its obligations, operate and maintain it as a freeway.

In such a scenario, would the Arroyo government's Master Plan ever be realized? Would our country still be able to draw private investments in much-needed but capital-intensive infrastructure solutions to traffic and transport problems? Would our country's economy ever take off?

An appeal

The Tollway Association of the Philippines issues this appeal to everyone to enable the public to deal with the Skyway Project's toll issue with more sobriety, in the context of fairness, and with the larger interest of the riding public in mind.

Only about 200,000 vehicles patronize the South Luzon Tollway and the Skyway System on a daily basis. Many of those motorists and vehicle owners have expressed satisfaction over the much-improved situation at these toll road sections. They believe that savings in time and vehicle operating costs have, to a large extent, compensated for the tolls that they have had to pay.

Much is expected from the government and the private investors as well as the public who is the ultimate beneficiary of the Skyway project and other road infrastructure projects. Any failure in any aspect of these infrastructures is not only a failure of the investors, but also of the nation, its government, and its people.

A Public Information Service by the

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JUST HELPING A FRIEND

Usec's wife denies influence peddling

By Norman Bordadora

THE WIFE of Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Lauro Baja has denied she was peddling influence when she interceded for seven Chinese nationals who had been refused entry upon their arrival early this month by immigration officials.

In a letter to Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo, Norma Baja said she was just trying to help a "desperate" friend, and believed she was contributing to Philippine tourism, when she wrote a letter of guarantee in favor of the Chinese.

All seven were guests of her close friend, Mary Go, and had previously been issued Philippine visas, Baja said. Go had immediately phoned her about the problem at immigration, she said, and she felt "obliged" to issue the guarantee.

She had known of a lot of foreigners holding visas but being denied entry with no justifiable reasons, Baja explained.

Last week, Domingo wrote a letter reporting the incident to Vice President and Foreign Affairs Secretary Teofisto Guingona. In the letter, she accused Baja of peddling influence. She said the immigration officers had allowed the Chinese to enter upon the representation of Baja, "who introduced herself as the wife of the (foreign affairs) undersecretary."

Baja said Domingo's letter, the contents of which was published last Monday, was unnecessary, since the Chinese nationals had left the country after a two-week stay.

She said Domingo's letter was "leaked to the press," and the adverse media reports had placed her and her husband "in a bad light." She asked Domingo to "remedy the situation."

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El Niño to hit 3 months early, says Pagasa

EL Niño, the weather phenomenon associated with drought in Southeast Asia, is likely to surface in the Philippines in July, three months earlier than expected, although its intensity would be fully felt only in the fourth quarter, according to the weather bureau.

"The warming of the central and eastern Pacific Ocean and the weakening of the easterly winds over the area are still going on. These conditions support the development of a weak El Niño starting in July which may last up to the first quarter of 2003," said an advisory from Leoncio A. Amadore, director of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration weather bureau.

El Niño—which means "boy child" in Spanish—is the abnormal warming of waters in the eastern Pacific that occurs every four to five years and distorts wind and rainfall patterns around the world, often causing deadly floods or droughts.

Weather forecasters have said the delay in the arrival of the rainy season could indicate the early stages of El Niño.

The weather remains hot and humid even as temperatures are still rising in Metropolitan Manila and isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms continue to fall all over the country.

The rainy season starts in May and normally ends in September.

Anticipating the effects of El Niño this year, agriculture officials are rushing remedial measures, particularly in the regions that are most at risk—the Cordilleras, Ilocos, the Cagayan Valley, Central Luzon, and western and southern Mindanao.

Yesterday, Speaker Jose de Venecia said 30 legislators have pledged to give P5 million out of their pork barrel allotments for a proposed P1-billion "anti-El Niño, anti-drought and anti-poverty" fund.

The 32 members of the administration's so-called "sunshine coalition" had decided at a mini-caucus last Monday to make the funds available from their public works entitlements, De Venecia said in a statement.

The Speaker, who proposed the creation of the more than P1-billion fund last month, said the legislators wanted to make sure that food production was sustained and the millions of farmers in the country were provided the needed assistance.

The fund will be used to build shallow tube wells, small water impounding dams and irrigation canals, farm-to-market roads, warehousing and other post-harvest facilities connected with food production and marketing.

To ensure that the funds are effectively utilized for food security, De Venecia said the House has been meeting with Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor and Agrarian Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza to identify priority projects and programs in the congressional districts.

Meteorologists said El Niño, which parched large swathes of Southeast Asian farmlands in the second half of 1997 and first half of 1998, could affect rainfall conditions in the Philippines in the third quarter this year.

But they said they did not expect the effect of this year's El Niño to be as severe as the 1997-1998 episode.

Cold, low clouds cause hailstorms

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE WEATHER bureau yesterday explained that the hailstorm felt in some parts of Metro Manila was due to low formation of clouds and low temperatures in these areas.

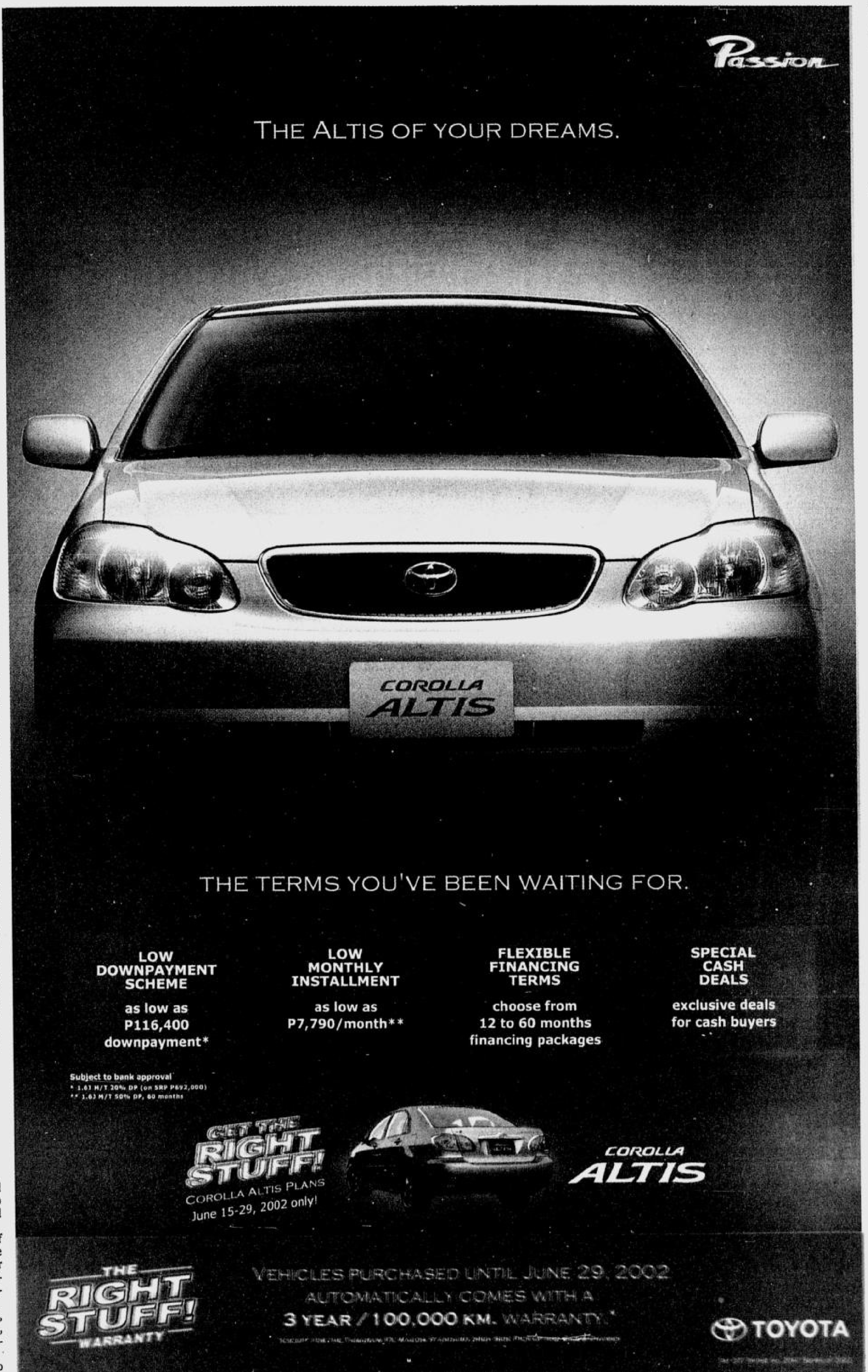
"It's a normal occurrence when the base of the clouds is low and temperature around the clouds is low," said Ricky Fabregas, a weather forecaster at the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration.

Fabregas explained that in these conditions, ice crystals in the clouds collide and coalesce, thereby forming bigger ice crystals, which eventually fall to the ground with rainwater.

"That's what people would normally refer to as *umulan ng yelo*," Fabregas said.

Fabregas said the Pagasa merely received reports about the hailstorm from residents and radio stations, which called to ask for explanations.

He said hailstorms usually occur in Quezon City where lower cloud formations are common.



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Disenchantment

ONE of the very unsettling findings of Pulse Asia's survey last March 22 to April 10 is that the number of Filipinos who want to migrate overseas has increased during the past decade. According to the survey, one in every five Filipinos now wants to join the exodus because he sees no hope in the country, compared to 14 percent prior to June 2001.

EDITORIALS

June 2001 is the benchmark of the disenchantment. But the survey merely sketches a profile of a trend. Unfortunately, it offers no explanation for the hopelessness, leaving us to divine whether it is caused by economic or political reasons. In this sense, the survey is not very useful in identifying the reasons for the stronger impulse for migration.

What the survey does tell us is that the impulse to migrate and the hopelessness are stronger among the ABC socioeconomic class (31 percent), compared to 12 percent in the poorest and least educated E class. Presumably, the lower percentage in the E class is due to the poor's acceptance of the reality that they are not in a position to migrate and to take advantage of the opportunities for a better life, given their financial and educational disadvantages.

The feeling of hopelessness is highest in Metro Manila at 26 percent, or 7 percentage points higher than the national average. The message seems to be that with the higher concentration of the educated people and of the middle and upper classes in Metro Manila and with their wider access to information, there's more disquiet among its residents.

However, we have to consider data from other surveys to give us further clues of the sources of the disaffection or sense of hopelessness. Last May and June, Prof. Jose V. Abueva of the University of the Philippines published the findings of a survey conducted in November last year. One important result stood out in that survey. A high percentage of Filipinos (43 percent) disagreed with the statement that they are satisfied with the way democracy works in the country, with only 34 percent agreeing. While 72 percent of the respondents agreed that democracy "is the best political system in all circumstances," 72 percent also were concerned about "the possibility that Filipinos will completely lose faith in peaceful means of promoting democracy."

From these data, it may be possible to draw the conclusion that both economic and political concerns have found expression in the findings on hopelessness and desire for migration of the Pulse Asia survey.

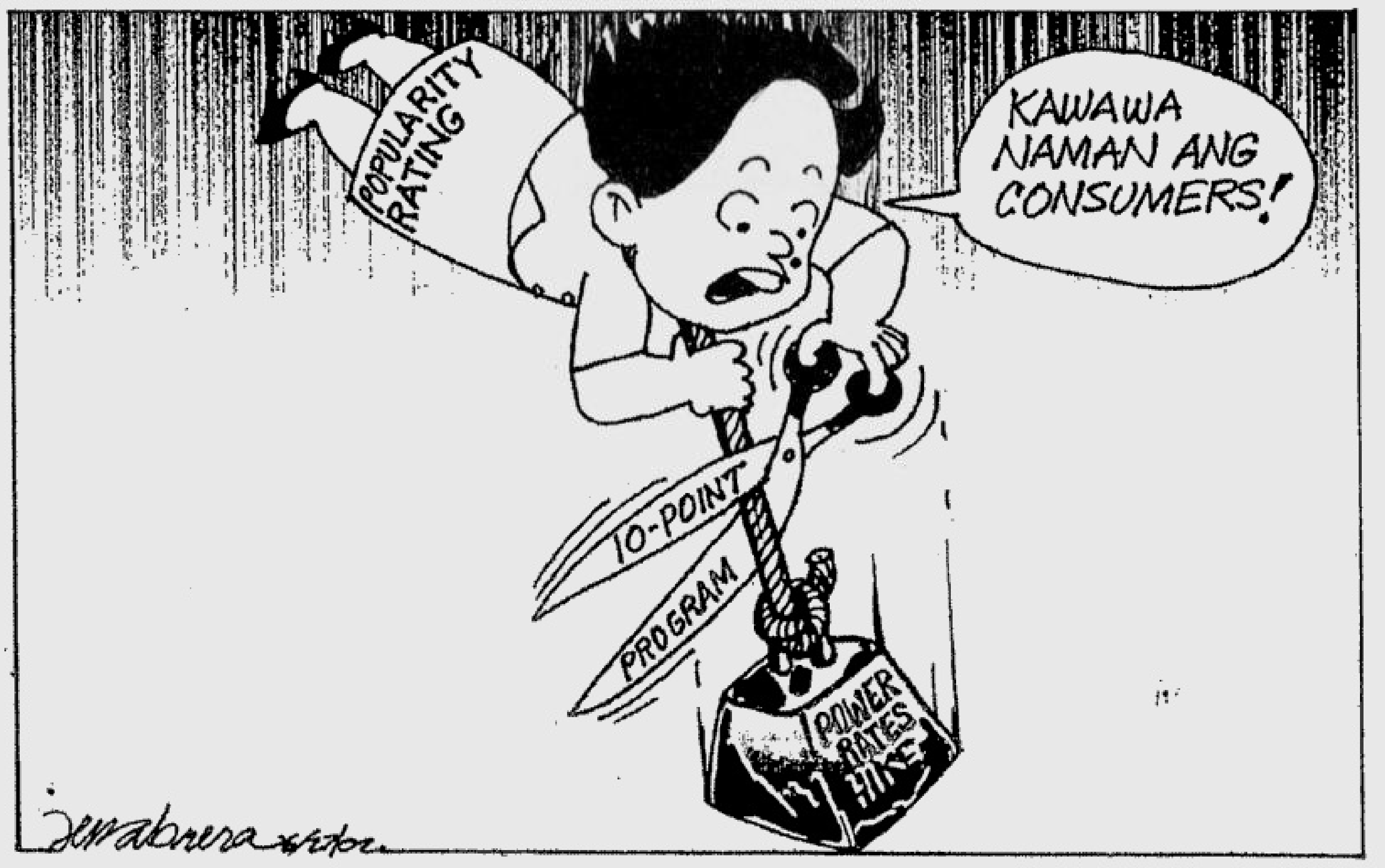
The search for economic opportunities (read: jobs) abroad has been an underlying reason and feature of the exodus of Filipinos. This is reflected in the fact that an estimated 7.4 million Filipinos are already living overseas, either as contract workers or permanent migrants. The growing number of entrants into the work force in a labor market that can absorb only a fraction tends to reinforce the tide for migration.

Demoralization

APPARENTLY, the feeling of hopelessness, as suggested by Prof. Felipe Miranda of Pulse Asia, has also been nurtured by the wave of political instability and turbulence in the wake of two people power upheavals and the failure of these events to fulfill the hopes of the people for a democracy that delivers results in terms of giving the nation a sense of purpose and consensus rather than creating gridlocks, exemplified by the destabilizing leadership conflicts in the Senate.

Anecdotal evidence abounds to confirm the desolate mood of despair over the anarchic workings of Philippine democracy. In social gatherings, one often hears questions like: Where is this country heading for? Is there a future for the country?

The surveys show disturbing signs of national demoralization. They could be portents of more serious trouble ahead. Migration is a safety valve that relieves the pressure of social tensions. But for most of the population, the exit points of migration are blocked.



More DENR explanations on Ifmas

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

LAST June 18, this column aired the explanation of Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez for the approval of the mysterious Integrated Forestry Management Agreements (Ifmas) that was one of the issues raised by those who were blocking his confirmation by the Commission on Appointments. Rep. Prospero Pichay opposed Alvarez's confirmation because the five corporations to which the Ifmas were awarded were foreign-owned, under-capitalized and the identities of their stockholders were unclear.

In his explanation, Alvarez said the five Ifmas mentioned by Pichay have been "cancelled in favor of a better instrument—the co-production agreement." **To which I asked:** Is the co-production agreement with the same five mysterious corporations? Is it better for the Philippines or for its partner corporations? Why?

In his new reply, Alvarez said yes. "The five companies in question have agreed to forgo their original Ifma applications in favor of the co-production agreement between the government (represented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources) and the private sector (now represented solely by Shannalyne Inc.).

Is it better for us?

Alvarez: "Prior to 1986, logging firms were allowed to cut trees under timber licensing agreements or TLAs awarded to them by the DENR, renewable every 25 years. But TLAs were banned under the 1987 Constitution, which now calls for co-production agreements. Most TLAs were automatically converted to Ifmas.

"Under the Ifma system, the firms are allowed to cut in natural forest areas as compared to co-production agreements where cutting is permitted only in the plantation area, saving the country's natural forests.

"It is consistent with the Master Plan for Forest Development (MPFD) of the country, which mandates the development of industrial forest plantations of about 500,000 hectares each to meet the future wood requirements of the country."

Question: **SEC records in the possession of Pichay show that the whole paid-up capital of Shannalyne came from foreigners. While it is time to try new and more drastic methods of reforestation that have been successful in other countries such as Finland and New Zealand, should it be undertaken by corporations whose ownership is mysterious?**

Alvarez: "Shannalyne Inc. is a Filipino corporation, duly registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) since 1996, having 60 percent Filipino ownership as required by the Constitution.

"Although it appears that the paid-up subscriptions of the corporation came from stockholders of foreign nationality, the Filipino stockholders still have majority vote considering that the shares they hold have not been declared delinquent or were never questioned at any time.

"As ruled in the case of Solomon, et al. vs. Unson (GR No. 23608, March 17, 1925), a person may become a stockholder of a corporation by mere subscription. Batas Pambansa Bldg. 68, otherwise known as The Corporate Code of the Philippines, provides that holders of unpaid shares which are not delinquent shall have all the rights of stockholders, to wit:

"Section 72. Rights of unpaid shareholders of subscribed shares not fully paid which are not delinquent shall have all the rights of a stockholder.

"In Department of Justice (DOJ) Opinion No. 64, Series of 2001, the Justice Secretary said the matter of the ownership of Shannalyne Inc. is 'justiciable in nature' and 'may be the subject of a judicial controversy,' further stating that the DOJ refrains from expressing its views on matters that fall within the primary jurisdiction of the SEC.

"Shannalyne Inc. has been pre-cleared and recognized when:

"a. Then DENR Secretary Victor Ramos awarded Shannalyne Inc. two Ifmas in 1998 which have remained valid and unchallenged to date.

"b. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo proclaimed as special economic zone Shannalyne's Technological and Environmental Park on March 12, 2001, through Proclamation No. 7916 as amended by Republic Act No. 3748; creating and designating certain parcels of land in Agusan del Sur as a special economic zone.

"c. On July 18, 2001, before entering into the co-production agreement, the SEC wrote Secretary Alvarez confirming that Shannalyne Inc. is a duly registered corporation as distinguished from other corporations, notwithstanding their similarity with respect to business activitie. and their common stockholders/directors."

* * *

TODAY'S JOKE: Erap, when he was not yet president, was leaving for the United States. He hailed a taxi.

Erap: To the airport, hurry!

First sign: Airport, 20 km.

Second sign: Airport, 10 km.

Third sign: Airport, LEFT.

Erap: You stupid driver, you're too slow. The airport has already left.

Help

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

JO Galera should ring a bell with some readers. She has been written about these past months, not least by Rina Jimenez-David in these pages. Her case is this:

In September 1999, she was pirated by WPP, the company that bought J. Walter Thompson, the ad giant, with the offer of putting up a media company. At the time, she was working in Silicon Valley in the United States as senior manager for Sun Microsystems. Welcoming the chance to return to the land of her birth and the challenge of heading a media company—"it is my strongest suit"—she packed her bags, took leave of her family and took the job.

For the next 15 months, she ran Mindshare, working her back off ("I was first to get in and last to get out"), doing the rounds of the industry to convince it of the merits of an independent media service. Toward the end of those 15 months, she got, "within weeks of each other" two major client businesses worth $7 million—Pfizer and International Distillers—which had hitherto proved elusive to the company. Her accomplishment did not escape the notice of superiors and colleagues abroad who cabled their congratulations to her.

But fresh from her triumphs, disaster struck. Her regional boss, one John Steedman, rewarded her for her pains by firing her. His decision came as an absolute surprise to her. She was cheerful that morning, she recalls, waving the contracts before his eyes, as though to say, "Eat your heart out." Steedman was stone-faced, however, and reading a formal letter, antedated the day before, informed her that her services were no longer needed. When she recovered from her shock to ask why, she was told she wasn't quite up to par.

A thing Galera protests vehemently. The commendations are there to disprove it, she says. And some weeks before she was fired, she had just been evaluated and found to be doing very well. What the real reasons were for her dismissal, she doesn't know. She has her theories, one of them being that she had been complaining about her salary being pegged to a conversion rate of P40 to $1. She noticed also that every time she met with her regional counterparts, one or two of them would be new ones. The turnover rate at Mindshare seemed pretty fast.

Furious over the injustice of it, Galera sought redress with the Department of Labor and Employment. And did find it there—at first. Labor Arbiter Edgardo Madriaga found WPP-Mindshare to have had no basis in firing Galera, and in a bold and inspired move, ordered the company to immediately reinstate her and pay her P170 million in back wages and benefits. His ruling was emphatic: "mandatory and immediate execution of Reinstatement, even pending Appeal."

Now here's the part where the plot thickens.

The ruling hasn't been implemented. Galera has not been reinstated, and she has not gotten a single centavo from WPP-Mindshare. Notwithstanding the unequivocal wording of Madriaga's ruling and notwithstanding calls for its immediate implementation by the Human Rights Commission, Rep. Etta Rosales, and Malacañang's Legal Affairs Division.

What has happened is that the First Division itself of the National Labor Relations Commission has opposed Madriaga's ruling and issued a restraining order. Its basis for it is the silly idea that Galera was not really an employee but a corporate personality, which therefore made the case non-labor and put it beyond the jurisdiction of the labor department. Galera scoffs at this, noting that the terms of her employment from Day One indicated an employer-employee relationship. If she were corporate, how come she was never once invited to attend a board meeting? In any case, she says, she has the papers to show she was in spirit and letter an employee from first to last. On moral and legal grounds, she says, the First Division's TRO has no leg to stand on.

Knowing how that division often makes its rulings look like they are up for auction, I myself have to wonder about its motives.

What has happened moreover is that several chambers of commerce have warned, or threatened Malacañang of pullouts by foreign investors if Madriaga's ruling were to be enforced. It would presumably discourage multinationals from coming in and encourage those already here to leave. I can believe it. The records show that at one point the WPP chair told Galera after she was fired that she "shouldn't fight WPP, it would be wasting energy fighting such a big company." The message is clear; they've got clout. Even friends have been advising her to charge the whole thing to experience and move on.

That's the part that gets my goat. Multinationals will pull out or be discouraged from coming in if Galera gets her due? Then by all means they should go, by all means they should be discouraged from setting foot on these shores. If the only way multinationals will stay or come in is by enjoying privileges not unlike those of the factory owners of Oliver Twist's time, or not unlike those of the lords of humankind in the days of colonial pillage, we would be better off without them. Galera is by no means powerless or insignificant. She was already working for an American company in America when she was lured into this spider's web. If that can happen to her, that can happen to any Pinoy. Ask not for whom the bells toll, it tolls for thee.

And I've always said it, you can't stand your ground on so fundamental a thing as justice, you'll never be able to move on. Or you'll just move on from one iniquity to another—as victim. Life doesn't go on when it is stopped dead in its tracks by injustice. Only death does. You want life to move on, you push it on till it gets unstuck, or you drop dead from exhaustion.

Jo Galera is doing so. She can do with a little help from friends.

Hopelessness

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE SURVEY finding that 20 percent of the Filipinos feel hopeless about their country and that given the chance they would leave for abroad is not surprising, given the nature of our politics over the last two decades. It is not surprising either that this hopelessness is prevalent in the upper classes. The lower classes have long felt that little can change the condition they are in, but it's the upper classes that feel trapped.

But the opposition ought not to gloat over this survey result, for it has very much to do with it. I suspect that the hopelessness stems from the upper classes' realization that after the disaster that was the regime of Joseph Estrada, the prospect that another actor or his political heir, Sen. Panfilo Lacson, might come to power in 2004 through the vote of the uninformed masses has driven especially the young people to this desperate feeling. I spend a lot of time talking to young people and I know their parents encourage them to leave for abroad if they could. Those who don't want to leave now support the move for a shift to a parliamentary form, where the highest officials are chosen by their peers in parliament and not by the masses.

* * *

In his recent speech at the inaugural session of the public affairs forum of the RP-based and Asia-focused consulting firm Polistrat, titled "Engaging the Dragon: What's in it for the Philippines?" former President Fidel V. Ramos argued that Asean should now engage China as a complementary partner in building the regional economy, instead of as a fearsome political and economic enemy. He argued that several factors will make China behave like a good neighbor, one of which is that it has been "radically changed" in the past two decades. There's the impending major shakeup in its leadership, with the projected turnover of the government by President Jiang Zemin to Vice President Hu Jintao, who in his mid-50s represents a new generation, and the retirement of 50 to 60 percent of the top leaders of the Communist Party. FVR pointed out that China today is no longer a totalitarian state in the mold of the defunct Soviet Union or Nazi Germany, but is closer to the familiar East Asian model of an authoritarian regime.

* * *

Apart from its entry into the World Trade Organization and its hosting of the Olympics in 2008, another thing that will make China behave is that it is preoccupied with big problems. Its concentration right now is how to keep its growth rate high, said FVR, which is "crucial to China's emergence as a major power, as well as to the Communist Party's ability to preserve domestic stability and its hold on state power." Now that the easy reforms have been done, he said, the "harder reforms" will require a great deal of political will, and one of them is dismantling the corrupt and inefficient state-owned enterprises and rehabilitating the debt-burdened state banks. He also noted the irony of its growing income inequality where the southeastern seaboard, which has only 20 percent of its population, accounts for 50 percent of its gross domestic product and 75 percent of its exports, while the rural countryside stagnates.

* * *

Time magazine recently highlighted this glaring inequality, noting that urban joblessness now averages 8-9 percent, with around 20 percent in the industrial rust belts across the north. It estimated that at least 19 million Chinese are out of work and tens of millions more are unaccounted for by official statistics. It also predicted that in the next 10 years, some 150 million farmers will move to the cities in search of work as the rural stagnation worsens.

FVR pointed out that popular protests over local-level corruption are aggravated by the emergence of a middle class that's demanding more accountability from the government. What all this boils down to, he said, is that viewed from the perspective of a "radically changed" China, its increasing importance as an "engine of growth for East Asia" ought to be seized by Asean as an opportunity to develop complementarity instead of crippling competition which can only hurt the region. He said the emergence of the world's largest free-trade area in Asean + China with its 1.7 billion people and combined GNP of $1.7 trillion could attract increased investments from multinational corporations.

Earlier, I noted the heightened interest here in the relations between Asean and China, for aside from Ramos' lecture, there's the 4th FVR-RPDEV lecture series on RP-US-China Relations on July 3, to be keynoted by Vice President Teofisto Guingona. There's a third forum on China this morning at the New World Hotel, featuring former Ambassador Jose Romero and Prof. Reuben Mondejar of the City University of Hong Kong.

Interestingly, Romero's paper, "The Emergence of China: Boon or Bane," also strongly argues for complementarity between China and Asean as the only way for the region to survive. He points out that relations between China and Asean-10 at the moment is more competitive than complementary, and the best indications are that China has elbowed out Asean for foreign direct investments (FDIs) and supplanted Asean-5 as the leader in both exports and imports. To survive our giant neighbor's onslaught, he exhorts the Asean economies to stop competing for FDIs and adopt instead a joint effort and common strategy to channel them back into the region and to shift to higher technology and innovation, as well as improve labor productivity among Asean countries. In addition, Romero stresses more trade and investment cooperation between Asean and China, e.g., Asean supplies capital-intensive inputs of IT products as well as banking know-how. Here RP has joined Singapore and other Asian bank capitals with the entry of Metrobank, PNB and Allied Bank into China.

Two we will miss

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

WHEN people asked her how she managed to write so temptingly of food, Doreen Fernandez would say that one trick she relied on was to simply name the ingredients that went into the preparation of a dish. "Just by going through the list of ingredients, the reader begins to imagine how the dish tastes, smells and looks," she said, imparting her secret of success as a food writer.

For someone who made her name (at least to the greater public) as a restaurant critic and scholar of the cultural aspects of food and cooking, Doreen was surprisingly open about her own lack of qualifications as both cook and gourmet. She wasn't all that skilled in the kitchen, nor qualified as an appraiser of a cook's skills. That honor really belonged to her late husband Willi, a renowned interior designer in his time, whose lifelong vocation was as a lover of the finer things in life. If anything, Doreen was Willi's best and most ardent student, learning by his side to tell good, honest and perhaps sublime cooking from the merely perfunctory and mundane. It was he, she once confided, who could tell what ingredients—secret or otherwise—went into a dish after just the first spoonful.

But the writing was all hers. And it was her refusal to trivialize her subject matter or pander to her readers that elevated Doreen's writings from the pedestrian stuff of public relations to full-blown cultural explorations of the place and meaning of food in our nation's life.

And as an influential restaurant reviewer since the 1960s, she was in a position to "make" or "unmake" restaurateurs, caterers or chefs. I remember famed chef Lenny Guerrero telling me (in the early 1980s) how her career as a restaurateur was really launched by Doreen's glowing reviews. And she was at it even as late as a few weeks ago, training her sights on the restaurants that a new generation of young, talented chefs, often schooled abroad, had opened.

* * *

EVEN before my husband and I got married, we had already made it a point to consult Doreen's reviews before splurging our hard-earned money on a new restaurant. Most of the time, her reviews were right on, and many of the places at the receiving end of her praise with time became family favorites, too. But even when the restaurant failed to live up to Doreen's appraisal, for with time, restaurant managers and chefs had grown to recognize her on sight and perhaps laid out special dishes and exemplary service for her benefit, the experience always turned out to be interesting for us.

But Doreen's enduring legacy will not be limited to the restaurants she helped "establish" in the public's awareness. A collection of her writing on food, called "Lasap," reveals the wide range of her culinary interests, with essays on mangoes, *sinigang*, the peasant diet, rice and seafood. An essay on *kilawin*, the Pinoy version of ceviche and sashimi, raw fish and other seafood served plain or doused with vinegar, coconut cream, onions and chili, stands out in memory. She wrote quite poetically of a morning spent on the waters off her hometown of Silay in Negros Occidental, in a banca shared with an expert on *kilawin* who turned whatever catch the fisherfolk brought into succulent fresh- and clean-tasting dishes which he urged Doreen to down it that instant. The essay, to me, stands alongside Rizal's account of the *sinigang* preparations aboard a boat on Laguna Lake as the best, most mouth-watering examples of food writing by Filipinos.

Writing about food was just a "sideline" for Doreen, whose life really revolved around teaching and literature. But if only for the way she made us "see" Filipino cuisine with new eyes and a new respect, Doreen will always be remembered as one of our most important scholars and propagators of Filipino culture and life. We will miss her.

* * *

ALSO to be missed is Larry Alcala, illustrator and social commentator whose nomination for National Artist was once airily dismissed for his being a mere "cartoonist."

But if Alcala was "just" a cartoonist, then he was a cartoonist who captured the Filipino sensibility. Who can forget his "everyman," humble looking in the peasant "uniform" of cut-off cotton pants and *camisa chino*, a straw hat perched on his head or clutched to his chest, looking bewildered and even bemused at the foibles of the rich and powerful?

Today's generation might best remember him for his complex, layered cartoon essays on various aspects of Filipino life—fiestas, weddings, baptisms, elections—with the added thrill of a search for his likeness buried among the figures and shapes. But before he began making his "Slice of Life," Alcala was also doing comic strips and editorial cartoons. True, his sensibility ran more toward the wry and humorous and the gently censorious. Appreciating his cartoons, one was more inclined to shaking one's head and tsk-tsking at the foolishness of our officials, rather than to denouncing their shenanigans.

But who can deny that his gentle digs were just as powerful in their unsaid polemics as the darker, more militant and sardonic cartoons of his predecessors and younger colleagues?

Above all, Alcala showed the full extent of his fondness for his subjects: we Pinoys. In cartoon after cartoon, in endless "slices" of Pinoy life, he exhibited a depth of understanding of Filipino culture and the Filipino psyche. One that did not deny, but even poked fun at our shortcomings and also celebrated our gifts of humor, family-centeredness, curiosity and love of show.

Cults, gurus, swamis and masters

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

SEEKERS they all are, seekers of spiritual experience and enlightenment, an alternative lifestyle, a godly existence and most of all, someone to lead or guide them to nirvana or the promised land. They also seek to belong. Many give up all their belongings to quench their longing.

Well, many find what they are looking for, sometimes along with ordinary people very much like them but in the most unlikely places and in bizarre circumstances. Many end up hooked and losing everything—not only their worldly goods but also their independence, their will, their common sense. They are hooked on someone they think is God, the impersonation of God or someone who will lead them to God. To them, this someone can do no wrong, is the embodiment of all things good and has the key to the eternal. His or her foibles and failings are passed off or dismissed as divine naughtiness. A fleet of Rolls Royces, in the case of one swami, is divine naughtiness?

Cults are very much in our midst. The case of the Philippine Benevolent Missionaries Association (PBMA) led by Ruben Ecleo Jr., son of PBMA founder Ruben Sr. and Rep. Glenda Ecleo of Surigao, is a classic example of a homegrown cult gone troubled. The PBMA has long been around, featured many times in the media. I had always wondered when it would explode/implode. It did, recently. So many dead bodies strewn about and the divine master/rock guitarist/suspected wife killer/drug user is in jail for parricide, etcetera.

What is a cult?

The book "Cults in our Midst: The Hidden Menace in Our Everyday Lives" (373 pages) by Margaret Thaler Singer (in collaboration with Janja Lalich) is a great source book on the psychology and sociology of cults. The book is a result of Singer's more than 50 years of work and research as a psychologist. Singer has counseled and interviewed more than 3,000 ex-cult members, Lalich was a former cult member who is now a cult information specialist.

Cults, Singer says, range from the relatively benign to those that exercise extraordinary control over members' lives and use thought-reform processes to influence and control members. The term "cult" is not in itself pejorative but descriptive. It refers to a group that forms around a person who claims he or she has a special mission or knowledge, which will be shared with those who turn over most of their decision making to that self-appointed leader.

In her study of cults, Singer says, she found that personality, preferences and desires of the leader are central in the evolution of any of these groups. Cults are truly personality cults. They are basically authoritarian, the personality of the leader is all important, they reflect the ideas, style and whims of the leader. Charisma is less important than skills of persuasion and the ability to manipulate others.

Cult leadership can be a heady role especially if the leader realizes the control he or she holds.

But, Singer stresses, her book is not about weird people who join crazy groups. "It's about how all of us, at various times, can fall into vulnerable states during which another person can wield more influence over us than at other times. We are all more vulnerable to flattery, deception, lures and enticements when we are lonely, sad and feeling needy."

Even the famous, wealthy and educated—the so-called most unlikely—get drawn in. Think of Caryana about which I did a long investigative story many years ago. A number of Filipinos swear by Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, that "free-love" Indian guru who established a huge empire in the United States and was later hounded by the tax police. There was infighting, a power struggle and allegations of sexual abuse. The scandal landed in the media.

Same with the Siddha (Syda) meditation group that has devotees here, among them the rich and the highly placed, the trophy catch. Investigative journalism helped expose the weird goings-on inside, the power struggle and alleged abuses, among them sexual, not to mention the worldly whims and caprices of its present female leader whom they call Gurumayi. The Internet has countless testimonies of ex-cult members who had stayed inside and left bewildered and bitter.

But the guru's devotees swear she is the embodiment of the divine. I prefer to believe the long, thorough journalistic investigation that exposed what was underneath the saffron robes, well-chiseled cheekbones and palatial ashrams.

Something wrong happens when an ancient devotion or practice such as yoga meditation gets transported to the United States. The leaders and teachings transmogrify. They make an empire out of ancient wisdom. Recently it was the Zen group in California that landed, ala Rajneesh and Siddha, in the media.

I am more impressed by the likes of Bede Griffiths, the revered Benedictine monk who made efforts to wed ancient Hindu practices and Christian monasticism in an ashram in India. Both Indian sages and the Catholic magisterium approved. His legacy lives and spreads.

But I will not dispute those who say their Siddha, El Shaddai or PBMA experience has improved their lives and deepened their spirituality. That is personal. But what about the bigger truth, the bigger picture? Many PBMA members say they live peaceful lives inside the PBMA shrine. What about the bigger truth? What about the man that Ecleo is?

Singer warns that some cults are highly litigious and use their power to harass critics: academics, journalists, former cult members and their parents, publications from Time to the Journal of American Medical Association.

Criticism is taboo inside cults. There is a "no gossiping" rule. There is milieu control. Some cults are violent. Others engage in conspiracy and fraud. Groupspeak (loading the language) is used. And most of all, mystical manipulation.

'Patola king'

YOUNG BLOOD

Hazel P. Villa

We want to know what the y
are thinking about. What are
thoughts on current issues?
welcome contributions from
twentysomething and below.—

THEY say my 58-year-old Dad is boring. He talks only when it is absolutely necessary, goes to sleep an hour after supper, wakes up early, eats breakfast and then goes off to teach at a local university. He's home by 6:30 p.m., watches the news and gets on with the same cycle, except on Saturdays when he is off to the farm. Absolutely unexciting.

Before he decided to live the dull life, Dad worked as an engineer for the Ministry of Public Works and Housing in Nigeria. When he came home to Iloilo City on semi-retirement, he experimented on some business theories that he believed would make us millionaires since he is past the age for working abroad. For his efforts, he earned several terms of endearment like "Patola King" and "Mango Magnate."

The time he was proving his "business theories" was the time we were growing up. From every disproved business theory of his, we in the family learned lessons no business guru could provide. In fact, we delineate our respective life history according to the time our Dad was working on specific theories. That was how important they were.

Business Theory No. 1: A mechanical engineer just fresh from working abroad can run a successful backyard poultry business. To cut on labor costs, Dad made his own bamboo coops to accommodate 200 chickens and set them up in our backyard. The idea was to grow layers and sell their eggs. Once, he kept us awake the whole night, dropping immunization capsules into the gullets of the feathered ones since evening was the only time we were around to assist him.

The chickens were doing fine, but Dad, a loner, didn't bother about marketing the eggs. "We will stop this because there are no buyers and we can't compete with the market," he muttered. That made me think for a while that people had gone allergic to chicken.

Dad's Business Lesson No. 1: One can be successful in a poultry business only if one has ready buyers.

Dad's Business Theory No. 2: *Patola* can send you laughing all the way to the bank. After the failed poultry venture, Dad perked up when he heard one radio broadcast saying that the lowly *patola* was the way to go. It can be turned into body scrubs that are in demand abroad and have very low production costs, said the broadcaster.

Off Dad went to our farm where he prepared one hectare for the *patola trellises. When the patola* crinkled up, Dad took off the skin and bleached them. We had one bodega full of skinned, de-seeded and dried patola ready for export when the guy who was supposed to market the stuff ran off with his company's money.

Since Dad didn't talk much and no one on the radio offered to buy our dried *patola*, we came up with Dad's Business Lesson No. 2: When you are more of a producer and laborer than a marketing man, it's better to just eat *the patola* instead of venture into the export business.

Dad's Business Theory No. 3: There is money in mangoes even if you grow them where others say they won't grow well.

Inspired by the success of mango growers in Guimaras, Dad decided to make his own Guimaras by planting 300 carabao mangoes in our farm in Passi City, which is sugarcane country with a lot of rainfall and, therefore, not that conducive to growing mangoes. Although some seedlings were either eaten or trampled upon by the carabaos of one of our irate farmhands who could not understand Dad's theory, my determined Dad persisted. Now eight years later, we are enjoying the mangoes of his labors except for one thing that led to Dad's Business Lesson No. 3: Mangoes will grow where others say they won't, but the size and flavor of the fruits won't be good enough for the export market. (Dad's mangoes bore fruit and our relatives and neighbors love us for it.)

Dad's Business Theory No. 4: Sharpening knives can bring more business ideas and relieve stress.

Probably while mulling over his many business theories that had been disproved and hoping for more entrepreneurial inspirations, Dad sharpened his favorite bolo and various knives for about two months almost every night. And he walked silently around the house with his beloved bolo strapped to his waist. When he cracked a joke, we all laughed. When he gave orders, we all obeyed. His wishes were our commands.

There was no business lesson here—only Children's Lesson No. 1: When Dad sharpens knives, never ever make him mad.

Despite all his failed businesees that amused us no end, no one can say Dad failed as a father. Though he made us laugh without really trying, Dad was dead serious about giving us the good life.

When he and my Mom got married, they did not have their own house. He was a simple engineer-teacher while she was a public school teacher. They both dabbled with farming but could not squeeze sweet money out of sugarcane after Marcos bled the industry dry in the 1970s.

So in 1978 Dad decided to work in Nigeria as a senior mechanical engineer. He brought all of us there the following year. We lived simple lives and, with his savings, we were able to build a decent house in an upper-middle class subdivision in Iloilo City.

In 1986, he went back to Nigeria by his lonesome to earn more for our education by working for a British firm that was constructing water systems for villages.

Through it all, he put up with all the headaches we gave him even while he was away. My younger sister was studying too much she neglected other things. I was rebelling and failed in Algebra (a great disgrace as far as my engineer Dad was concerned). And my brother was so naughty (albeit smart), his school refused to accept him for Grade 2.

In Nigeria, my Dad lived in a caravan towed by a Range Rover for three years. He and his Nigerian assistants constructed water systems for the natives living in very dry areas often visisted by blinding sandstorms called harmatans.

His was a humanitarian mission, but for a family man who loved his wife's cooking, farming and long walks with his children, such a life must have been almost unbearable because he had only his Nigerian workers to talk with and the vast and arid terrain to stare at. He said he ate chicken most of the time because pork was taboo in that Muslim country.

A stoic man, Dad was never one to complain. Like other Filipino fathers who worked abroad as contract workers, he hung on to the belief that no sacrifice was too much for the waiting family back home.

Dad finally came home for good in 1989 and decided he would enjoy life. His idea of enjoyment is quite unique, and this is partly illustrated by his business theories. He loves what he does.

As we watch from the sidelines, sometimes in a state of panic or puzzlement, we always remember how hard this man worked to be what he is now: a happy dad who lives life well in the daily company of his family.

With the first harvest of his mangoes coming in, we forgive Dad if he insists that the many choice mangoes be wiped very clean and arranged in neat rows with newspapers covering them on our house help's bed.

Hazel P. Villa, 28, teaches English and Creative Writing at the Special Program for the Arts of the Iloilo National High School. She also contributes articles to the INQUIRER.

Time to wage war vs smoke belchers

I BELIEVE that there is a need to refocus our ecological priorities soon before it is too late. I am calling on our environmentalists, both public and private, to spearhead the effort to drive smoke-belching vehicles off the streets. I am likewise urging the citizenry and especially our public officials to be vigilant and be united by a sense of urgency to fight smoke-belching. Land Transportation Office and Environmental Management Bureau, hello!!!

In the past, I was privileged to attend various environmental forums. The lectures and hand-outs on sustainable development given by various resource persons were excellent and well-crafted , except those on smoke-belching which most often was not given a lot of concern. I have yet to meet an environmentalist who has a practical solution to the problem of smoke-belching vehicles, which are major contributors to the pollution in urban areas. It is obvious for everyone to see, that places like Metro Manila are covered with smog, yet we play blind to the situation and give our attention to other environmental issues.

Where are our ecological priorities focused? The sooted flags flying in our main streets are good indicators of how the lungs of commuters, pedestrians and traffic personnel will look like after a few months of exposure to vehicular emissions.

We beat around the bush suggesting palliatives and ineffective measures and attempting to come up with laws, ordinances and devices like pollution monitors, air standards and financial incentives instead of attacking the problem at its roots by impounding smoke-belching vehicles, disallowing their registration and even jailing owners of such vehicles. In Metro Manila, the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority can deputize volunteers to apprehend these violators of environmental laws.

We should have done this 25 years ago. Now, let us put our act together before our cities become uninhabitable. Let us never again say a word about "sustainable development" until we have taken a bold step toward addressing this issue which is of utmost importance to our survival. Our children have the right to breathe clean air. They deserve this legacy from us.

—ZALZON C. ESPINO, Bacoor, Cavite

Growth of cults and religions

ALL main line religions were once cults and any of today's cults could one day become a mainline religion. What they have in common is that both pander to the ignorance of man. Both support and maintain an irrational abject attitude of mind toward the supernatural, notwithstanding the absence of evidence or the presence of evidence to the contrary. Cults and religions maintain beliefs and practices resulting from ignorance, fear of the unknown and false conceptions of causation.

The only explanation for the growth and propagation of cults and religions was once well stated by the inimitable H. L. Mencken when he said that, "The curse of man, and the cause of nearly all his woes, is his stupendous capacity for believing the incredible."

—JAMES LITTON, 312 Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City

High court tried to please both sides in Lacson case

WHAT has become of the Supreme Court? Why did it not decide the case of Sen. Panfilo Lacson, instead of remanding it to the regional trial court?

I am not a lawyer but surely the Supreme Court is not without power to secure the records of the cases and determine once and for all whether the revival of Lacson's case has lapsed or prescribed. By remanding the case, it is clear the Supreme Court wanted to please President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and not to displease Lacson.

But Lacson is luckier. Maybe because he is now a senator?

In Lacson's case, the Supreme Court decided to remand because it could not resolve the issues for lack of factual basis and the records of the case were not clear whether the private offended parties were notified of the hearing held to resolve the motions filed by Lacson to dismiss his case. It also wasn't certain whether affidavits of desistance were executed by the relatives of the three other victims and whether the findings of the Court of Appeals that the private offended parties were notified of the dismissal hearing when only seven complainants submitted affidavits of desistance before the lower court.

In GR No. 112526 entitled "Sta. Rosa Realty Development Corporation versus Court of Appeal et al.", however, the Supreme Court remanded the case to the Darab for reevaluation and determination if the petitioner's land was covered by CARP, although the Darab's decision finding the petitioner's land to be covered by CARP was affirmed in toto by the Court of Appeals. Here, the Supreme Court, unlike in the Lacson case, made its own findings of facts, although it is not a trier of facts, and without evidence to support its findings!

But there is a substantial difference between the Lacson case and the Sta. Rosa case. Lacson is a senator, while the farmers are not. Lacson is powerful, while the farmers are not.

By the way, please read GR No. 112526, promulgated on Oct. 12, 2001. It is one of the worst, if not the worst, decisions ever written. *Sa Pilipinas, kawawa talaga ang wala!*

—F. CARMELO J. AQUINO, 10 De Julio St., Lipa City

Abortion sure to follow contraception

I READ with concern the series of column articles of Rina Jimenez-David (hopefully I've read the last) purportedly defending what she terms as "emergency contraception." I note that in the process of exercising her "freedom of the pen," she is wittingly or unwittingly teaching the readers, the majority of whom are presumably women, how to commit abortion using "locally available common brands of oral contraceptives." David went as far as to indicate the specific dosage, which to my mind is not only unethical but also goes against the rules of the Bureau of Food and Drugs against lay advertising as it precisely encourages self-medication (worse, this is even abortion).

How can the INQUIRER publish such writing in the guise of exercising freedom of the press? I suggest that David be more circumspect or else she will be leading many persons (yes, the women she claims to protect as well as the poor embryos she readily denies the right to implantation as she believes they are not human) to a hapless fate. She should also not ignore the reality of "contraceptive imperialism"—Third World countries, including the Philippines, being given aid packages which more likely contain contraceptives than life-saving devices.

Of course, one should not confuse contraception and abortion. However, it is said that even the most atheistic embryologist must admit that human life begins at conception. (Our Constitution also enshrines that truth.) For what else could it possibly be but human life?

If you ask any expectant mother what it is she is carrying in her womb, she will tell you it's a baby, and it is not necessary to refer to divine revelation to arrive at this conclusion. As someone said, "Often the wisdom of the simple and lowly is far greater than that of the self-anointed elite."

When contraception is accepted by society as a way of life and those contraceptives fail and pregnancy occurs, abortion is resorted to to correct the "failure."

Even the United States Supreme Court in a 1987 decision admitted that a society that contracepts must have abortion available as the consequence of widespread contraception. It has been proven that 50 percent of women obtaining abortions today were contracepting when they became pregnant. No country in the 20th century has accepted widespread contraception without legalizing abortion within one to three decades. Abortion follows the contraceptive mentality as surely as night follows day. The logic cannot be denied.

—DINA D. LUCENARIO, P.O. Box No. 2028, MCPO

Next time we must revamp Congress

THE ONGOING Cabinet revamp of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is laudable but she should carefully discern who goes, who stays and who will replace the bad eggs in the government.

I am glad that Panteleon Alvarez had the decency to leave his post because of the Piatco mess but I don't think Leandro Mendoza should replace him. I just hope that the Department of Transportation and Communication post was not offered as a reward to a loyal soldier.

As to the other Alvarez, I believe Environment Secretary Sonny Alvarez is doing a good job and I hope he will soon be confirmed. I can imagine that he may be having difficulties in fully implementing the programs of the DENR because many politicians are involved in illegal logging and other businesses that drain our natural resources. Maybe those opposing him at the Commission on Appointments are scared of an environment secretary who has the guts to implement the law, without fear or favor.

Let us look at the case of some Mindanao congressmen who are bent on preventing Alvarez's confirmation to the DENR post—Congressman X is a lobbyist of a notorious logging company and an anti-poor mining company. Congressman Y acts as the liaison for a telecommunications giant, Congressman Z is a logger himself; and a few other politicians are godfathers to the wealthy few. Did we elect them to serve the whims and caprices of their patrons? We put them in office to serve the majority and not just those who have money!

If the President yields to the pressure from these types of politicians, then we might as well surrender our hopes to alleviate the plight of the Filipino majority. As an economist, the President knows that equitable access to scarce resources is the key for broad-based economic growth. But as long as we have greedy politicians and businessmen, that will just be a pipe dream.

Why can we not really revamp Congress itself next time the opportunity arrives and really do ourselves a favor?

—LESLIE PAUL C. BOCOBO, 11 P. Willis St., BF-Heva, Parañaque City

A run against torture

TERRORISM like any word is open to various definitions and interpretations. Terrorism is a matter of perspective. When one declares others "terrorists," he makes an implicit assumption of innocence. They are terrorists but he is not. The perspective of the other is therefore important. In a world of unbalanced powers and unjust political and economic structures, definitions are crucial to the well being of everyone. Often definitions are exclusive and discriminatory. Usually if not always, definitions are made and propagated by the powerful. In this world of power whether brute or sophisticated, we continue to witness the antics of the BRAT. Noam Chomsky calls countries that continue to ignore international agreements and conventions, rogues. A synonym of rogue is brat.

To commemorate the "United Nations International Day in Support of Torture Victims," we are doing a "Run Against Torture" or BRAT (Basta Run Against Torture). Torture has existed since the time of Marcos. It has not stopped even with the restoration of democracy. Torture has been documented during the time of Cory, FVR, Erap and even now under the presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Philippine military and police forces were necessarily pampered by Marcos who needed the latter to maintain martial law or his constitutional dictatorship.

Unfortunately, the pampering has not stopped. One clear indication of pampering is the impunity enjoyed by the military and police in cases of torture. I have been involved in the monitoring of the case of the "Abadilla 5." Nothing has happened to the complaint of torture inflicted on the "Abadilla 5." Lawyer Sol Santos has made a number of representations on the case which continues to sit and drag in the courts. In spite of efforts of individuals like Santos and groups like Amnesty International and Balay, the state continues behaving like a brat. The state's intransigence or brattiness warrants the existence of groups which continue to monitor torture and support its victims.

To the Philippine government whose claims to freedom, peace and democracy are belied by instances of torture and cases of involuntary disappearances, I make an appeal.

Don't be a BRAT! Stop the torture! Criminalize torture! Prosecute the torturer!

Justice to the victims of torture!

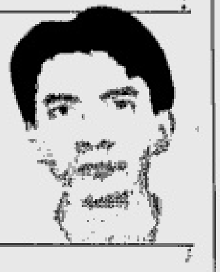
—FR. ROBERTO P. REYES, Gomburza

Mega media

BACK in the 1980s and 1990s, I edited a newsletter called "Health Alert for an NGO." I was quite proud of the newsletter's content, and circulation, which reached all of 1,000 copies.

Our NGO stopped producing Health Alert in 1995 and people still ask if I've thought about reviving it. Frankly, it's low in my priorities, mainly because I'm not sure I want to pour in time and energy for a publication that runs only a thousand copies. I still help to produce another newsletter, AIDS Action, which runs 30,000 copies and goes out to more than 40 countries in Asia, but even that number is tiny in this age when mass media have been transformed into mega media.

PINOY KASI



Michael L. Tan

You get a picture of this mega media in the "4A's Media Factbook", the 4A's referring to the Association of Accredited Advertising Agencies of the Philippines. It's a pocket-sized book packed with useful information, some of which I thought I should share with readers, together with my views on how the mass media are developing.

Let's start off with a bit of historical trivia. Did you know the first newspaper in the Philippines, Del Superior Govierno, was established in 1811 by *Peninsulares* or Spaniards born in the Philippines? It lasted all of 15 issues.

The media factbook names Liwayway as the first magazine in the Philippines, set up in 1925. In 1929, Liwayway featured our first comic strip, "Kenkoy," which was so successful that its creator, Tony Velasquez, eventually teamed up with the Roces family to set up Pilipino Komiks.

Broadcast media started in the 1920s when American businessmen put up radio stations with temporary permits, but it was not until 1930 that we had our first regular commercial radio broadcast. Television followed in 1953, the first TV station being dzAQ, Channel 3, owned by Alto Broadcasting System or ABS, which later became part of the ABS-CBN empire.

From the very beginning, mass media have played vital roles in our lives. Newspapers weren't limited to news. Another book I've been reading, "A History of Philippine Medicine," says that an early 19th century newspaper, La Filantrofia, published articles on sanitation and household remedies.

Newspapers didn't just function to disseminate information from the government. From the beginning, too, our newspapers were seen as venues for reform and revolution. La Opinion, a newspaper established in 1827, already had articles criticizing the Spanish friars.

Throughout the Spanish and American colonial periods, newspapers and magazines challenged those in power. After we regained independence in 1946, a free-wheeling press spoke out whenever needed. The press was temporarily muzzled during the Marcos dictatorship, to be challenged slowly by a mosquito press which eventually led to the establishment of the INQUIRER.

Broadcast media were also powerful for questioning the status quo; in fact, radio probably had and still has a greater influence on most Filipinos than newspapers. During the turbulent 1970s the term "*bomba*" or bomb came to refer to pornographic movies as well as to no-holds barred political radio commentaries.

Mass media today are marked by a rather sharp class divide. Broadsheets cater mainly to the upper class. Business World, which mainly caters to business people and professionals, has a daily print run of only 65,000. The largest broadsheet, a great paper called the INQUIRER, runs 250,000 copies but this still pales in comparison with the tabloids, which cater to CDE audiences. The largest tabloid, Abante, claims a daily print run of more than 400,000 while People's Tonight runs 365,000 copies.

Similar patterns are found with the magazines. The glossies like Metro and Cosmopolitan have a print run of between 50,000 and 70,000 per issue while magazines like Intrigue and Kislap run between 150,000 and 180,000 copies. These figures are still low compared to weekly publications using a comics format. The most popular ones are True Horoscope with a claimed circulation of 345,000, Lovelife Komiks with 315,000 and Golden Drama with 296,000.

It's depressing when you think of what most Filipinos are reading. But this "dumbing down" of the Filipino isn't something limited to CDE audiences. Glossy publications, English talk shows and FM radio also dish out their fare of horoscopes and psychics, romance stories and advice for the lovesick, and gossip about celebrities. Generally, there is a trend toward a tabloidizing of all of mass media, a focus on the sensational and the macabre.

As for the activist function of mass media, I'm afraid that mass media commentaries often end up fanning more controversies rather than educating the public on current issues. In fact, the bombastic AM radio programs, for all the fire and fury of its commentators, probably function more as safety valves, allowing people an outlet for their frustrations much like the programs for the lovesick. Other programs end up as brokers, helping to facilitate applications lost in the bureaucratic maze. The radio stations (as well as charity TV programs) actually end up reinforcing the patron-client relationships. It's not surprising that media celebrities end up in politics, voted into office with a large following built from among their listeners and viewers.

The media factbook tells us we now have something like 700 radio stations, 700 cable TV operators, seven national broadsheets, six national tabloids and dozens of magazines and local papers. On the horizon is the Internet, now estimated to have 4 million users in the Philippines. Mega media are growing by leaps and bounds but I wonder, as we talk more are we perhaps communicating less?

Moral guidelines in writing

AT THE AGE of 17, Benjo Agsimula must feel smug to be able to put out such a "masterpiece" for his writing class and have it published in the column Youngblood.

Reading such a piece proved to be a waste of time for me. There was nothing there except smut and downright carnality. Imagine having an erection without Benjo's knowledge and consent? That put his brains below where it shouldn't be.

I wonder what Benjo's grade was in that writing class. Obviously his UP professor thought it was good. And if the INQUIRER thinks it can publish such an item that leaves a bad taste in the mouth in a democracy, then I must make a commentary that would somehow put back some sense of decency in our newspaper reading.

I hope Benjo's piece is not an indication of what our young generation is up to. I can think of better and more important things to do than writing about things which are better left in the confines of out private world. If this is freedom of the press, then we can expect more of this kind with our young being told: "Express yourself!" Even in writing there are moral guidelines which define what we can write.

—CHITO SULIT, 22-14 Museum Road, Calinan, Davao City

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bush speech spurs Israeli offensive

JERUSALEM—Israel kept Palestinians in seven West Bank cities under the gun and threatened to expand the operation to the Gaza Strip after a policy speech by US President George W. Bush dealt another blow to Yasser Arafat.

The Palestinian president on Tuesday brushed aside Bush's call for his people to replace him with new leaders "not compromised by terror" as a condition for the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Israel welcomed Bush's speech on Monday as proof Washington had joined Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's drive to sideline Arafat. A strong undercurrent of scorn and disappointment ran through Arab countries.

While the world pondered what would become of Arafat, the immediate future for Palestinians in Ramallah, Bethlehem, Hebron, Qalqilya, Tulkarm, Nablus and Jenin meant Israeli reoccupation, curfew and searches.

Asked how long the army would stay in the cities they entered after suicide bombers killed 26 people in Israel last week, Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said: "As long as it takes us to fulfil our basic duty to our children."

Speaking on Israel's Channel One television, Ben-Eliezer said that on Tuesday alone Israeli forces had seized explosives belts,

ARAFAT

homemade rockets and "several terrorists and murderers of the first order" in sweeps through the West Bank.

Echoing a threat by Sharon to launch operations against the militant Islamic group Hamas in the Gaza Strip, Ben-Eliezer said: "If Hamas's activities reach an intolerable level, nothing will help and we will have to go and fight it, too."

Ismail Haniyah, a senior figure in Hamas, said Bush had merely upheld the "Zionist occupation" and vowed continued resistance.

Hamas has killed scores of Israelis in suicide attacks since a Palestinian uprising against occupation began in September 2000. At least 1,425 Palestinians and 548 Israelis have been killed in the revolt.

In his Israeli-encircled headquarters in Ramallah, Arafat appeared to refer to the plans he has announced for elections by early next year when asked by reporters to respond to Bush's call for a new leadership. ***Reuters***

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Arafat seen counterattacking with elections

JERUSALEM—Yasser Arafat, unceremoniously dumped as a Middle East peace partner by US President George W. Bush, is facing yet another major crisis, but has already devised a counter-attack with promises for new elections, analysts said here.

It is a seemingly paradoxical move for the embattled Palestinian former guerrilla leader, who never attached much importance to elections, but reflects his confidence that he has few serious political rivals.

Bush on Monday night laid out his long-awaited vision for peace in the troubled region with a steely bargain for the Palestinian people.

Get rid of your leaders who are "tainted by terror" and stop killing Israeli civilians, Bush said, and my administration will help set up an independent Palestinian state within three years.

Israeli media were quick to conclude it was a political death knell for Arafat, whom Bush never actually mentioned by name.

"Yasser Arafat, the seemingly immortal leader of the Palestinian national movement, was politically assassinated Monday by President George W. Bush," decided the left-leaning Haaretz daily.

Even Arafat, who has escaped from desperate political situations—including an Israeli siege in Beirut in 1982 and when he was made a virtual prisoner in his West bank headquarters for five weeks earlier this year—will have a hard time getting out of this quandary, several analysts agreed.

But significantly, none of the analysts risked saying Arafat was finished.

"This is the biggest (crisis for Arafat)," said Zakaria al-Qaq of the Israel-Palestine Center for Research and Information, "but he managed to survive so many times."

"I think that this is, if not the darkest point, one of the darkest moments for Arafat and for the Palestinians," added lawmaker and noted Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi. ***AFP***

Belgian court junks suit vs Sharon

BRUSSELS—A Belgian appeals court ruled Wednesday that Belgium cannot investigate war crimes charges against Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon related to a 1982 massacre in two Palestinian refugee camps.

The three-judge panel said a case could not proceed against a person who is not in Belgium, despite a 1993 Belgian law granting Belgian courts "universal jurisdiction" over war crimes committed anywhere.

"If a person is not found on the territory, we find it inadmissible," the court said in its 22-page ruling.

The decision to throw out the case means Sharon can come to Belgium without fear of potential arrest, since a warrant can be issued only after an investigation, lawyers said.

Daniel Shek of the Israeli foreign affairs department welcomed the decision.

"A trial that began with more politics than law happily ends with more law than politics," he said outside the courtroom. "We from the beginning trusted the Belgian courts, and I am happy that we were not disappointed."

Lawyers for 23 Palestinian survivors who launched the case in Belgium last year indicated they would appeal to the Supreme Court.

"We are not satisfied with this, not at all," said attorney Michael Verhaeghe. "This completely undermines universal jurisdiction. We cannot accept the verdict." ***AP***

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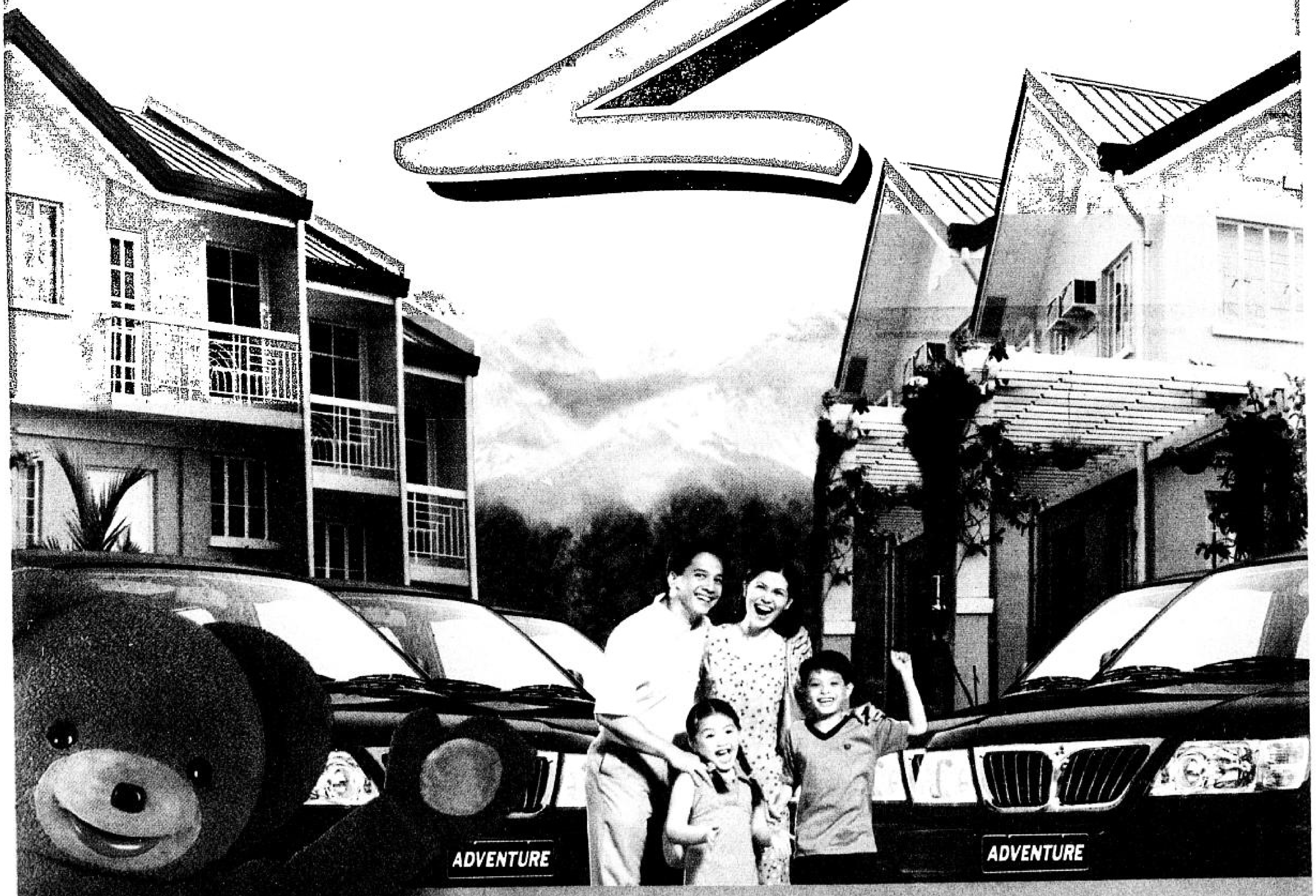

OVER ₱13 MILLION IN PRIZES TO BE WON!

5 houses & lots, 5 Mitsubishi Adventures to be given away!

	MONTHLY DRAW PRIZES*	DRAW DATES	DEADLINE OF ENTRIES
(9) 1ST PRIZE	**ENTERTAINMENT SHOWCASE** JVC CTV, JVC Compo/VCD, JVC VHS player	April 19, 2002 May 24, 2002	April 12, 2002 May 17, 2002
(9) 2ND PRIZE	**KITCHEN SHOWCASE** La Germania Range, Whirlpool Microwave Oven, 8.5 cu. ft. National Refrigerator		
(9) 3RD PRIZE	**LIVING ROOM SHOWCASE** Sofa Back Table, Alessa Living Room Set, Center Table, 2 Side Tables		
	GRAND DRAW PRIZES*	**DRAW DATE**	**DEADLINE OF ENTRIES**
(5) 1ST PRIZE	**HOUSE & LOT****	July 5, 2002	June 28, 2002
(5) 2ND PRIZE	**2002 MITSUBISHI ADVENTURE GLX-GAS**		
(4) 3RD PRIZE	**HOME SHOWCASE** Combination Entertainment, Kitchen, Living Room Showcase		
(40) CONSOLATION PRIZES	**LIVING ROOM SHOWCASE** Sofa Back Table, Living Room Set, Center Table, 2 Side Tables		

2 Monthly Draws to be held in 9 Sales Areas: GMA, North Luzon, Central Luzon, South Luzon 1, South Luzon 2, West Visayas, East Visayas, North Mindanao, South Mindanao • **Grand Draw in 4 Sales Areas:** GMA, Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao

*Actual prizes may vary from ones shown here. All prizes are tax-free. Houses and lots are convertible to P1.5M each. Home, entertainment, kitchen, and living room showcases are convertible to gift certificates equivalent to their respective cash values.

**Model house by: JARDINE LAND

Napakadaling manalo!

- Write the promo title "NESTLÉ BEAR BRAND Lupa't Bahay, Bagong Buhay 2", your name, address, signature on the back of BEAR BRAND INSTANT foil packs, boxtops or labels. You can also use BEAR BRAND STERILIZED can labels and ready-to-drink (200ml) shrink labels as entries. All entries must have the new BEAR BRAND logo.
- Drop entries in drop boxes at supermarkets, groceries, and sari-sari stores nearest your place of residence (within your city area) to avoid disqualification.
- For the grand draw, division of prizes will be as follows:

1st and 2nd Prize:	Two (2) Winners from Mindanao One (1) Winner each from GMA, Luzon and Visayas
3rd Prize:	One (1) Winner each from GMA, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao
Consolation Prize:	Ten (10) Winners each from GMA, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao

Magmadali! Sali na! Promo Period: March 8 - July 5, 2002

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See leaflets for more details.

WORLDCOM $3.8-B FRAUD

Another financial scandal rocks corporate US

REUTERS

JUST seven weeks after the outspoken co-founder of WorldCom, Bernard Ebbers (above) was forced to quit as chief executive of the telecom giant, WorldCom Chief Financial Officer Scott Sullivan has been fired.

SAN FRANCISCO—A staggering corporate scandal erupted late Tuesday when troubled telecommunications company WorldCom disclosed company officials had misstated accounting figures in the amount of $3.8 billion.

The affair could eclipse the scandal of US energy giant Enron, bringing another corporate disaster to the steps of the Arthur Andersen auditors—a company already in the spotlight on charges of criminal wrongdoing.

According to a statement released by the Clinton, Mississippi-based WorldCom, monies that were actually expenses were booked as capital. This was accomplished outside of generally accepted accounting rules, the company stated.

A proper accounting of those funds, the company said, would have resulted a reduced cash flow of $6.3 billion in 2001 and $1.4 billion for the first quarter of 2002, meaning the company would have reported a net loss in 2001, and for the first quarter of 2002.

In 2001, WorldCom claimed a $1.4 billion in profit, and a $130 million in profit for the first quarter of 2002. Final numbers for those last five quarters won't be available until another audit is conducted, the company said.

WorldCom's Chief Financial Officer Scott Sullivan and controller David Myers have been sacked, the company said.

The company has notified US securities regulators of the impropriety, WorldCom stated, and has retained an outside law firm to investigate the matter.

WorldCom CEO John Sidgmore said the company's management team was "shocked by these discoveries."

"We are committed to operating WorldCom in accordance with the highest ethical standards."

As almost an afterthought, WorldCom also stated in its release disclosing the massive scandal that it was laying off 17,000 in a cost-cutting move.

Sidgmore said the company, despite these revelations, "remains viable and committed to a long-term future."

The company is asking its recently hired outside auditors, KPMG, to conduct a new survey of the company's books for the year 2001 and 2002. Also, WorldCom said it has received word for Andersen that in light of these revelations, audits for 2001 conducted by Andersen "could not be relied upon."

Andersen said in its own statement that it had acted in accordance to "professional standards at all times" and it had been kept in the dark about the WorldCom CFO Sullivan's actions. *AFP*

Japan supersonic prototype to rival Concorde

TOKYO—It looks like a winged javelin and would zip along at twice the speed of sound, with the supersonic boom reduced to the tolerable rumble of a Boeing 747. It would go twice the distance of the Concorde, seat three times the passengers, and cut emissions by 75 percent.

Sound like science fiction? Japanese researchers say they're ready to prove it's not.

The government-funded National Aeronautics Laboratory of Japan plans to launch an unmanned prototype of NEXST—short for National Experimental Supersonic Transport—in the Australian desert next month.

The engine-less aircraft, a 10 percent scale model of the real thing, would ride piggyback on a rocket, then be hurtled forward at a speed of 2400 kph (1,522 mph). After a 14-minute test flight, it would release parachutes and land.

The July 11 test aims to determine the viability of the plane's aerodynamic shape, which was developed through computer simulations seeking to cut the noise of supersonic flight in half.

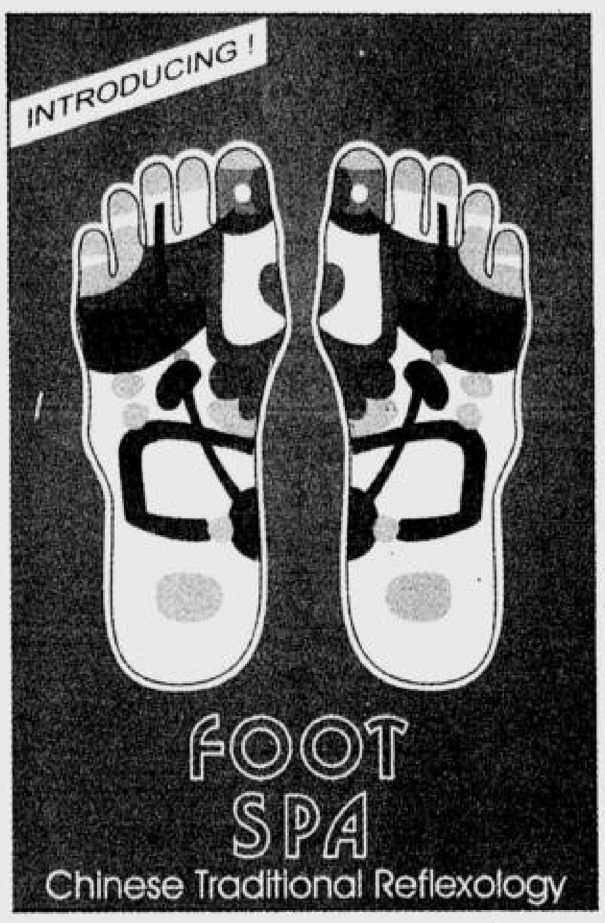
"What we'll be looking at in next month's experiment is if our design really has the sound-reducing effect we've achieved in simulations," said NAL spokesman Toshiharu Okuda.

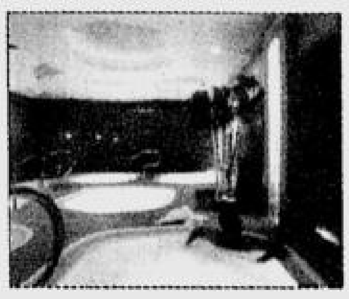
Officials plan to conduct more tests with US-built engines powering the NEXST prototype over the next two years. NAL doesn't expect the jet to be ready for commercial flights until 2012.

The program has its skeptics, who point out that Japan has developed almost nothing of interest in aviation since World War II.

"There's a lack of experience and know-how, and in this field experience and know-how count for a lot," said Hiromu Maeda, an aeronautics professor at Kyoto University. *AP*

The Biggest & Only 5-Star Spa In The Heart Of Malate





Where Orthodox medicines fail, more and more people are rediscovering the power of other means of therapies. **The RITZ SPA** introduces the Chinese traditional reflexology & acupressure method to help treat physical & emotional problems. The ancient Chinese believe that by applying pressure on a particular point on the foot, energy can be stimulated & released by a reflex action in a related muscle or organ and thus encourage healing of the body & mind.

The RITZ SPA also offers hair, body & salon services.

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Have it all!
10-seater LIMOUSINE SPECIAL with 4 captain's chairs for personalized comfort.
3 PREGIOS to fit your need and budget -
loaded with features and added values!

The LS comes with fold-down VCD player with LCD TV plus - FREE
- Nokia 3310 (1 year warranty on unit only) celfone and
- Black & Decker portable wet & dry vacuum cleaner!

P170,800** DP

YOU SAVE: P87,003.80

All PREGIOs come with these super specials:
*20% DP that saves you money with all these freebies:
- Chattel Mortgage & LTO Registration (1 year)

Choice of
- PMS Package (free labor and parts for 20,000 kms. or 1 year, whichever comes first)

or:
- 1 year comprehensive insurance.

And now PREGIO goes farthest for you with a 3 yrs./75,000 kms. (whichever comes first) product warranty on all PREGIO models!*

FEATURES	PREGIO LS	TYT GRND	HYN STRX	MIT SPGR
Engine displacement	2665	2986	2476	2477
4 Captain's chairs	✓	—	—	—
All coil front suspension	✓	—	—	—
All coil rear suspension	✓	✓	✓	✓
AUDIOVOX (USA) VCD w/ LCD TV	✓	—	—	—
Side mirrors w/ demister	✓	—	—	—
Roof rack w/ rails	✓	—	—	—
Alloy wheels	✓	—	✓	—
Power features	✓	✓	✓	✓
Service warranty	3/75	2/50	2/50	2/50
SRP	P 854,000	P1,088,000	P876,000	P1,270,000

* Subject to bank approval
** Financing applications are valid only for 24 mos. up to 60 mos. term
- Free items like VCD player, celfone and vacuum cleaner are not applicable to RS Enterprise.
- Cash buyers are entitled to all free items except chattel mortgage fee.

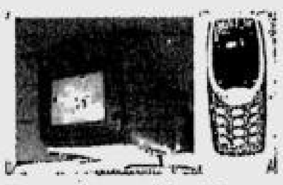
★ Subject to warranty guidelines compliance & strict adherence to regular preventive maintenace service schedule by a KIA authorized dealer

Shuttling or commuting are the hardworking RS ENTERPRISE Specialties!

P125,000** DP

YOU SAVE: P37,266.00

Front & rear coil suspension on all Pregio models.



Smooth travel for 12 - on the GS FESTIVAL plus AUDIOVOX (USA) VCD player w/ TV plus: FREE Nokia 3310 celfone!

P147,000** DP

YOU SAVE: P72,370.00

FEATURES	PREGIO Festival	TYT HAGL	MIT LXC	NSN ESCPD
Engine displacement	2665	1998	2477	2663
Front all coil suspension	✓	—	—	—
Rear all coil suspension	✓	—	—	—
Swivelling 2nd row seat	✓	—	—	—
AUDIOVOX (USA) VCD with TV	✓	—	—	—
2-tone body colors	✓	—	✓	✓
Power features	✓	✓	✓	✓
Service warranty	3/75	2/50	2/50	2/50
SRP	P 735,000	P867,000	P840,000	P780,000

- GS also available with automatic transmission
- Special deals for cash buyers
- SRP RS Basic - P625,000
  SRP RS Deluxe - P645,000

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KIA COMMONWEALTH
(PRINCE MOTOR CORP.)
43 Commonwealth Avenue, Q. C.
Tels. 951-2201 to 16•453-9318 to 20

KIA BALINTAWAK (SIGNET BALINTAWAK)
1240 EDSA, Balintawak Q. C
Tels. 362-5091/92•362-6096

KIA MANDALUYONG (SIGNET MANDALUYONG)
79 EDSA Mandaluyong M. M. Tels. 531-4631 to 33 •531-4424•531-1949 Almanza Branch: (in front of SM South) Tels. •801-7656•806-2230•806-2235• 801-7668•802-1024•806-2229•806-1390

KIA MARIKINA (DELTA MOTOR SALES CORP.)
332 Sumulong Highway Brgy. San Isidro, Cainta, Rizal Tel 682 8580 - 81 Telefax 682 8539

KIA NEW MANILA (WHEELS, INC.)
222 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave. Q. C. (near St. Luke's Hospital) Tels. 721-8456•721-8465 •721-8448•4113406, Quezon Ave. Branch: 602 Quezon Ave., Q. C. Tels. 712-2923•712-2926•743-6707

LUZON

KIA LA UNION (AMIANAN AUTOCENTER, INC.)
Main: National Highway, Sevilla, City of San Fernando, La Union 2500 Tels. (072) 700-8881/888-2607 KIA Baguio: 110 Magsaysay Ave., Baguio City 2600 Tels. (074) 300-8861, 444-3547 KIA Laoag: Brgy. 16 National Highway, Payas San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte 2901 Tels. (077) 781 8881 to 82

KIA PAMPANGA (TRADERS AUTOCENTER, INC.)
Gapan Olongapo Road, San Fernando, Pampanga Tels. (045) 961-1485•(045) 961 3926•961-1486 Cell No. (0912) 330-3231 KIA Tarlac: McArthur Highway, San Rafael Tarlac, Tarlac Tels. (045) 982-2423

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(BATANGAS-LAGUNA AUTOCENTER, INC.)
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Aguinaldo Highway, Bacoor, Cavite Cel No. (046) 417-0795 KIA Biñan: Areza Bldg. 2 National Highway, Bgy. Canlalay, Biñan, Laguna (Beside Golden City Subd.) Tels. (02) 520-8241•(049) 411-0139

KIA DAGUPAN (METRO-DAGUPAN AUTOCENTER, INC.)
McArthur Highway, San Miguel, Calasiao, Pangasinan Tels. (075) 522-8605 to 06

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Bosnia missions could end July 1 over US demand

UNITED NATIONS—The Nato-led peacekeeping mission in Bosnia could be forced to halt operations on July 1 over a US demand that American peacekeepers be exempt from prosecution by the world's first permanent war crimes tribunal, Britain's UN ambassador said Tuesday.

It's "at least a theoretical option," Ambassador Jeremy Greenstock said. "It's just a question of how hard the parties to this issue want to play it. But it's not to be entirely dismissed that an individual peacekeeping operation may be held hostage to a much wider and deeper question."

The United States has threatened to end its participation in UN peacekeeping operations if the council does not grant American peacekeepers immunity from arrest and prosecution by the new International Criminal Court, which becomes a reality on July 1.

The UN Security Council on Friday extended the authorization for Bosnia's 17,000-strong Nato-led force, which includes 3,100 Americans, and the UN mission to train the country's police force until June 30, giving members more time days to find a compromise.

But Greenstock said "there's nothing on the table that looks like common ground at this moment." The United States is the only vocal opponent of the court, and its demand has put the council in a tough spot.

Six council members have ratified the Rome treaty establishing the court, including US allies Britain and France. Six others have signed and plan to ratify, and even China, which hasn't signed the treaty, backs it.

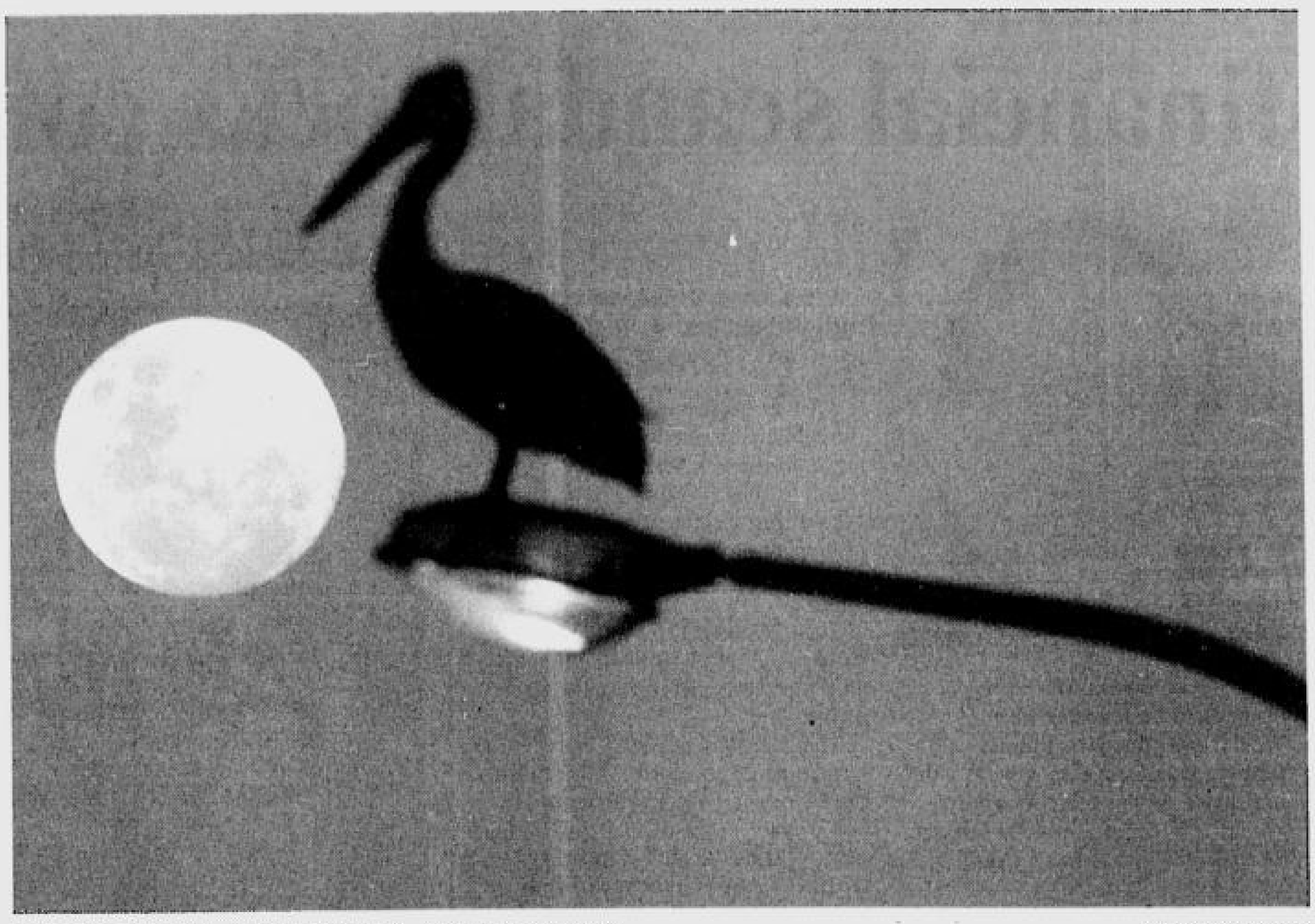
Former US President Bill Clinton signed the treaty, but in early May, President George W. Bush's administration announced that it wants nothing to do with the court.

The United States objects to the idea that Americans could be subject to the jurisdiction of the new court if a crime is committed in a country that has ratified the treaty—even if the United States is not a party. Washington says that would leave US troops and citizens vulnerable to frivolous or politically motivated prosecutions for war crimes.

Supporters contend the treaty has safeguards against this. The court will step in only when countries are unwilling or unable to dispense justice themselves for the most serious crimes committed by individuals: genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes.

Greenstock said the European Union—whose 15 members have all ratified—is committed to promoting "the principles of the court."

Last week, the United States moved in the Security Council to get blanket protection from the court's jurisdiction for Americans taking part in all UN or UN—authorized peacekeeping operations—and because of the impending extension of the Bosnia mission it introduced an amendment for a specific exemption in Bosnia. *AP*



MOON ABOVE, FISH BELOW—WHAT A LIFE REUTERS/DAVID GRAY

An Australian pelican sits atop a streetlight at dusk as a full moon rises behind it at Sydney's Long Reef beach June 24. A small group of pelicans sit on the lights to have a good view of the sea for observing schools of fish.

Major terror attack on West certain, says Italy minister

ROME—A major terrorist attack is certain to hit the West sooner or later, Italian Defense Minster Antonio Martino said Tuesday, in a declaration that was heavily criticized by the opposition and a police union.

"We know for certain that a terrorist attack of major proportions will sooner or later hit the West. We do not know where, nor which shape it will take," Martino said.

He said there was no clear indication of where precisely the target of an attack would be.

"The United States? Europe? Italy? And if it is Italy, where and when? There are too many things that we do not know," he said.

"Personally, I fear the threat of a bacteriological attack, which the West is still under-prepared to handle," the minister said, speaking at an academic conference on the military.

Martino expressed concern that Italy did not yet know enough about any possible attack to "have truly guaranteed the security of the public."

He said Italy had "done what was within its power" to ensure security—for example by reinforcing air controls—but that it would need to do "even more."

"We must not allow ourselves to become terrorized, as that would play into the hands of the terrorists," the minister said.

Martino was heavily criticized by the opposition, who said his statement ran counter to previous government advice.

"It is serious when a minister gives such a serious warning without proof, when his colleagues at the interior ministry and the public administration ministry are giving indications completely opposite," said Massimo Brutti, the vice president of the Democratic Senators (DS) left wing grouping.

"No information which would lead us to think that there is a real and concrete risk for Italy has been supplied to the parliamentary committee controlling the secret services."

And a former under secretary of state for defense, Marco Minniti said Martino had a duty to put any evidence to back his claims before parliament.

Criticism also came from the Greens and from a police union, UGL, whose secretary general, Paolo Varesi said the minister was calling on Italians "to resign themselves and wait for the day of judgement."

"It makes the police who are every day fighting in our country against cells of international terrorists bitter," Varesi added. *AFP*

Singapore's Orchard Road feeling pinch

SINGAPORE—Singapore's Orchard Road, once a magnet to shoppers across the region, is facing tough times.

The broad avenue that cuts through the heart of the city state is still lined with trendy boutiques and high-end malls. The crowds still come too, but retailers complain that the money isn't flowing the way it used to as browsing replaces buying.

The famous shopping strip is feeling the pinch of tighter wallets on the tail end of Singapore's worst recession since independence, increasingly chic competition elsewhere in the Asian neighborhood and a shift in the types of tourists.

"Orchard Road is too crowded and it's hard to find a parking lot," said Jason Tan, a civil servant who goes on a monthly shopping trip to the nearby Malaysian city of Johor Bahru.

"One of the main reasons is the price. We save about S$5-S$10 for every S$200 ($112) we spend there. Also, we treat it as a family outing."

While Orchard Road is often full of people, especially in the early evenings when the heat of the tropical sun has waned, few are carrying bags stuffed with clothes, cameras or electronics.

The latest retail sales figures showed a 4.2–percent fall in April over the year—the sixth consecutive monthly decline. The index also fell a sharp 11 percent versus March, including a 13–percent drop in clothing and footwear purchases.

"Orchard Road faces huge challenges," said Yeo Khee Leng, chief executive of the Singapore Tourism Board (STB), which works closely with retailers in the area. "We are mindful of the vibrancy of Orchard Road."

Weak demand is also behind the flat inflation picture in the city state, with Singapore posting a decline in consumer prices in May for the seventh consecutive month.

Analysts say the local consumer typically accounts for around 80 percent of spending in Orchard Road and the overseas visitor the rest. But domestic demand is being hit from all sides. *Reuters*

RESCUERS carry the body of a person pulled from the wreckage of a passenger train crash about 400 km west of Tanzania's main city and commercial capital Dar es Salaam June 25. REUTERS

Passengers undergo runaway ride for 25 minutes before Tanzania's worst train crash

MSAGALI, Tanzania—What started as a slow roll backward for passengers on a train crossing central Tanzania accelerated into a screaming runaway ride that lasted nearly half an hour before the train crashed into a freight train at about 200 kph, officials said. By late Tuesday, 174 bodies had been pulled from the wreckage.

Survivors from the Monday morning crash described how most of the 1,200 people on board were praying—some quietly, some loudly—while others screamed as the train swayed from side to side, throwing luggage out of the overhead bins and knocking people down as they tried to run for the doors.

"I knew I was going to die. I said my last prayers," said Bismus Lwangisa, a 42-year old fish dealer. "The speed was very high, it was more than the speed when the train moved forward."

The cross-country trip began when the train pulled out of Dar es Salaam, the eastern Indian Ocean port city, Sunday night, bound for Mwanza in the west. At some point the train stopped on the crest of a hill because of engine problems and mechanics tried to make repairs, the train's crew told local officials Tuesday. Then the brakes failed and the train began rolling backward, survivors said.

Pushed by the weight of the now freewheeling engine, the train's 20 coaches hurtled down the rolling, semiarid hills in central Tanzania at about 7:30 a.m.

"There were people shouting 'We are dying, We are dying,'" said Joyce Mwinani, who was on her way home from a Christian Evangelical meeting. "Some were singing praise songs until the train overturned."

After 25 chaotic minutes, Lwangisa said the last thing he remembered before he lost consciousness was being thrown forward and a deafening roar of crunching metal.

Ole Saitabau, the district commissioner in neighboring Kongwa, said investigators estimate the train traveled 19 km (12 miles) and reached 200 kph before it rammed into the back of a slow-moving freight train going the same direction near Msagali, 310 km west of Dar es Salaam. *AP*

BIR REVENUE REGULATIONS NO. 7-2002

June 4, 2002

SUBJECT : Revalidation of Issued Permits to Establishments Subject to Excise Tax

TO : All Internal Revenue Officers and Others Concerned

SECTION 1. SCOPE - Pursuant to the provisions of Section 244, in relation to Section 245 of the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997, these Regulations are hereby promulgated in order to rationalize the issuance of permits issued by the Bureau of Internal Revenue to various taxpayers engaged in the manufacture, production and importation of articles subject to excise tax, including dealers of leaf tobacco and manufacturers of cigarette and tipping papers.

SECTION 2. SURRENDER OF PERMITS – All persons, whether natural or juridical, who are engaged in the manufacture, production and importation of articles subject to excise tax, including dealers of leaf tobacco and manufacturers of cigarette and tipping papers, are hereby required to surrender the original copy of the following permits for revalidation:

a. Permit to Operate as a Manufacturer, Producer, Trader and/or Importer
b. Permit to Operate and Maintain Bonded Storage Facility/Warehouse
c. Permit on any Changes Made on the Designated Place of Production and/or Storage Facilities
d. Other Permits that cover a continuing transaction and do not specify a definite date of expiration

For this purpose, the covered taxpayers shall submit an application (See Annex "A") for revalidation together with the original copy of their previously issued permit to the offices stated below on or before July 31, 2002. With respect to permits for changes on designated place of production/storage facilities, the revised/updated copy of the taxpayer's plat and plan shall also be attached to the application.

Taxpayers Concerned	Receiving Offices
For taxpayers registered within Revenue Region Nos. 4 up to 9	The Chief, LT Assistance Division II
For taxpayers registered outside the said revenue regions	Heads of Excise Tax Areas (EXTAs)

The revalidation of the existing permit applied for by the taxpayer shall be made by issuing a new Permit after under-going the evaluation process prescribed by these Regulations. On the other hand, a notice of revocation shall be issued to concerned taxpayers whose applications are denied.

SECTION 3. EVALUATION COMMITTEE - All surrendered permits shall be forwarded to an Ad-Hoc Committee created for this purpose which are hereby enjoined to undertake the following:

a. Review and evaluate the application for revalidation of previously issued permits;
b. Conduct ocular inspection and verification of the establishment; and
c. Prepare recommendation reports for approval / disapproval by the Commissioner or his duly authorized representative

SECTION 4. FAILURE TO PRESENT ORIGINAL COPIES OF PERMITS - Any person who cannot present the original copy of his/her permits are required to re-apply for registration with the Offices mentioned in Section 2 hereof on or before the deadline prescribed by these Regulations for the surrender of the original copy of permits. For this purpose, the taxpayer, through his/her/its duly designated senior officer, shall submit a duly notarized sworn statement stating the reasons for his/her/its failure to submit the original copy of his/her/its permits.

SECTION 5. TRANSITORY PROVISION – In order to provide the BIR processing office sufficient time to act on the request for revalidation of previously issued permit and to protect the interest of compliant taxpayers during the pendency of the processing thereof, all permits surrendered by concerned taxpayers on or before the prescribed deadline shall be considered valid until the same are revoked or until new permits are issued.

SECTION 6. PENALTY CLAUSE - Any taxpayer covered by these Regulations who fails to apply for revalidation within the aforesaid deadline shall be considered operating without a valid permit; and, as such shall be subject to the imposition of appropriate penalties provided for under the existing laws, rules and regulations.

SECTION 7. REPEALING CLAUSE – All rules and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of these Regulations are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. EFFECTIVITY. These Regulations shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in any newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

JOSE ISIDRO N. CAMACHO
Secretary of Finance
JUNE 0903-DOF 10

Recommending Approval:

EDMUNDO P. GUEVARA
Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue
Officer-In-Charge

Annex "A"

APPLICATION FOR REVALIDATION OF PERMIT

Name of Applicant
Tax Identification Number:
Address of Head Office
Address(es) of Production Plant(s)/Storage Facility(ies)

Assessment Number :

Type of Permit applied for revalidation: (check appropriate box)

☐ Permit to Operate as a Manufacturer, Producer, Trader and/or Importer
☐ Permit to Operate and Maintain Bonded Storage Facility/Warehouse
☐ Permit on Changes made on the place of production and/or storage facilities
☐ Others: ____________________
(Please specify)

____
Taxpayers Representative
(signature over printed name)

KEEP HELPING BUILD OUR NATION. PLEASE PAY YOUR TAXES.

www.bir.gov.ph

BIR REVENUE REGULATIONS NO. 8-2002

June 13, 2002

SUBJECT : **Amending Further Pertinent Provisions of Revenue Regulations No. 7-95, as amended, with respect to the Time of Filing of Quarterly VAT Returns; Contents and Submission of Quarterly Total of Monthly Sales and Purchases Per Supplier or Customer, and Providing for the Penalties and Effect of Non-Submission Thereof; and Clarifying Further the Mode of Remittance of VAT Due From Non-Residents.**

TO : **All Internal Revenue Officers and Others Concerned.**

SECTION 1. SCOPE. - Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 244 and 245 of the Tax Code of 1997 (Code) in relation to Sections 5, 6, 105 and 114 of the same Code, these Regulations are hereby promulgated in order to amend certain provisions of Revenue Regulations 7-95 (RR 7-95), as amended, relative to the (a) time of filing of quarterly VAT returns; (b) contents and submission of quarterly total of monthly sales and purchases per supplier or customer, and providing for the penalties and effect of non-submission thereof; and (c) clarifying the mode of remittance of VAT due from non-residents.

SEC. 2. FILING OF RETURN AND PAYMENT OF VAT. - Sec. 4.110-1 (A), (B), (C), and (D) of RR 7-95, as amended by RR 6-2001 and RR 4-2002, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4.110-1. Filing of return and payment of VAT. -

"A) Filing of Return. -- Every person liable to pay VAT shall file a quarterly return of the amount of his quarterly gross sales or receipts within twenty five (25) days following the close of the taxable quarter using the latest version (April 2002 (ENCS) version) of Quarterly VAT Return (BIR Form 2550Q -April 2002 (ENCS)) hereto attached as Annex "A". The term "taxable quarter" shall mean the quarter that is synchronized to the income tax quarter of the taxpayer (i.e., calendar quarter or fiscal quarter).

Amounts reflected in the monthly VAT declarations for the first two (2) months of the quarter shall still be included in the quarterly VAT return which reflects the cumulative figures for the taxable quarter. Payments in the monthly VAT declarations shall, however, be credited in the quarterly VAT return to arrive at the net VAT payable or excess input tax/over-payment as of the end of a quarter.

"Example. - Suppose the accounting period adopted by the taxpayer is fiscal year ending October 2003, the taxpayer has to file monthly VAT declarations for the months of November 2002, December 2002, and for the months of February, March, May, June, August, and September for Year 2003, on or before the 20th day of the month following the close of the taxable month. His quarterly VAT returns corresponding to the quarters ending January, April, July, and October 2003 shall, on the other hand, be filed and taxes due thereon be paid, after crediting payments reflected in the Monthly VAT declarations, on or before February 25, May 25, August 25, and November 25, 2003, respectively.

"B) Payment of VAT. -- All persons liable to VAT shall pay the tax monthly based on the taxable sales/receipts for the month, using the VAT declaration form within twenty (20) days after the end of each month: Provided, however, that with respect to taxpayers who availed of the electronic filing and payment system (EFPS), the deadline for electronically filing the monthly VAT declaration and paying the tax due thereon via the EFPS shall be five (5) days later than the aforesaid deadline. The declaration shall be accomplished only for the first two (2) months of each taxable quarter.

The VAT payable/ Excess Input Tax (output tax less input tax) for each taxable quarter shall be reduced by the total amount of tax(es) previously paid for the immediately preceding two (2) months, and the advance payments/creditable VAT withheld by the payors for the three months of the quarter.

"C) Short Period Return. - Any person who retires from business with due notice to the BIR office where the taxpayer (head office) is registered or whose VAT registration has been cancelled shall file a final quarterly return and pay the tax due thereon within twenty five (25) days from the end of the month when the business ceases to operate or when the VAT registration has been officially cancelled. Provided, however, that subsequent monthly declarations/quarterly returns are still required to be filed if the results of the winding up of the affairs/business of the taxpayer reveal taxable transactions.

"All persons first registered under Sec. 4.107-1(b)(3) and 4.107-1(c) of these Regulations shall be liable to VAT on the effective date of registration stated in their Certificates of Registration: i.e., the first day of the month following their registration. If the effective date of registration falls on the first or second month of the taxable quarter, the initial monthly VAT declaration shall be filed within twenty (20) days after the end of the month, and the initial quarterly return shall be filed on or before the 25th day after the end of the taxable quarter. On the other hand, if the effective date of registration falls on the third month of the taxable quarter, the quarterly return shall be filed on or before the 25th day of the month following the end of the taxable quarter, and no monthly VAT declaration need be filed for the initial quarter. The deadline for the filing of Monthly VAT Declaration shall be five (5) days later than the deadline herein set forth if the taxpayer is filing under the Electronic Filing and Payment System (EFPS)."

"D) Where to file and pay. - The monthly VAT declaration and quarterly return shall be filed with, and the VAT due thereon paid to an Accredited Agent Bank (AAB) under the jurisdiction of the Revenue District/BIR Office where the taxpayer (head office of the business establishment) is required to be registered.

In cases where there are no duly accredited agent banks within the municipality or city, the monthly VAT declaration and quarterly VAT return shall be filed with and any amount due paid to the Revenue District Officer, Collection Agent, or duly authorized Treasurer of the Municipality/City where such taxpayer (head office of the business establishment) is required to be registered.

The quarterly VAT return and the monthly VAT declaration, where no payment is involved, shall be filed with the Revenue District Officer (RDO) / Large Taxpayers District Office (LTDO)/ Large Taxpayers Assistance Division (LTAD), Collection Agent, duly authorized Municipal/City Treasurer of Municipality/City where the taxpayer (head office of the business establishment) is registered or required to be registered."

Taxpayers filing via EFPS shall comply with the provisions of RR 9-2001 as amended by RR 2-2002.

Only one consolidated quarterly VAT return or monthly VAT declaration covering the results of operation of the head office as well as the branches for all lines of business subject to VAT shall be filed by the taxpayer, for every return period, with the BIR office where said taxpayer is required to be registered.

SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF THE MODE OF REMITTANCE OF VAT DUE FROM NON-RESIDENTS. - Sec. 4.110-3 of RR 7-95, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4.110-3. Withholding of Creditable and Final Value-Added Tax. -

"(a) Withholding of Creditable VAT. -- The government or any of its political subdivisions, instrumentalities or agencies, including government-owned or controlled corporations (GOCCs) shall, before making payment on account of its purchase of goods from sellers and/or of services rendered by contractors/suppliers which are subject to VAT under Sections 106 and 108 of the Code, deduct and withhold VAT due at the rate of three percent (3%) of the gross sales, whether paid or payable, for the purchase of goods, and six percent (6%) on gross receipts for services rendered by contractors/service-providers, on every sale or installment payment which shall be creditable against the VAT liability of the seller or contractor/supplier: *Provided, however, That in case of government public works contractors, the withholding tax rate shall be eight and one-half percent (8.5%).*

"(b) Withholding of Final VAT. - The government or any of its political subdivisions, instrumentalities or agencies, including government-owned or controlled corporations (GOCCs), as well as private corporations, individuals, estates and trusts, whether large or non-large taxpayers, shall withhold ten percent (10%) VAT with respect to the following payments:

(1) Lease or use of properties or property rights owned by non-residents;

(2) Services rendered to local insurance companies, with respect to reinsurance premiums payable to non-residents; and

(3) Other services rendered in the Philippines by non-residents.

"In remitting the VAT withheld, whether creditable or final, the withholding agent shall use BIR Form No. 1600- Remittance Return of Value-Added Tax and Other Percentage Taxes Withheld".

"The VAT withheld and paid for the non-resident recipient (remitted using BIR Form No. 1600), which VAT is passed on to the resident withholding agent by the non-resident recipient of the income, may be claimed as input tax by said VAT-registered withholding agent upon filing his own VAT Return, subject to the rule on allocation of input tax among taxable sales, zero-rated sales and exempt sales. The duly filed BIR Form No. 1600 is the proof or documentary substantiation for the claimed input tax or input VAT."

"Nonetheless, if the resident withholding agent is a non-VAT taxpayer, said passed-on VAT by the non-resident recipient of the income, evidenced by the duly filed BIR Form No. 1600, shall form part of the cost of purchased services, which may be treated either as an "asset" or "expense", whichever is applicable, of the resident withholding agent.

SEC. 4. SUBMISSION OF QUARTERLY SUMMARY LIST OF SALES AND PURCHASES. -- Sec. 4.110-4 of RR 7-95, as amended by RR 13-97 and RR 7-99, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 4.110-4. -- Submission of Quarterly Summary Lists of Sales/Purchases. -

a. Persons Required to Submit Summary Lists of Sales /Purchases. -

(1) Persons Required to Submit Summary Lists of Sales. - All persons liable for VAT such as manufacturers, wholesalers, service-providers, among others, with quarterly total sales/receipts (net of VAT) exceeding Two Million Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P2,500,000).

(2) Persons Required to Submit Summary Lists of Purchases. - All persons liable for VAT such as manufacturers, service-providers, among others, with quarterly total purchases (net of VAT) exceeding One Million Pesos (P1,000,000).

b. When and Where to File the Summary Lists of Sales/Purchases - The quarterly summary list of sales or purchases, whichever is applicable, shall be submitted to the RDO or LTDO or LTAD having jurisdiction over the taxpayer, on or before the twenty-fifth (25th) day of the month following the close of the taxable quarter (VAT quarter) -calendar quarter or fiscal quarter.

c. Information that Must be Contained in the Quarterly Summary List of Sales to be Submitted. --

The quarterly summary list must contain the monthly total sales generated from regular buyers/customers, regardless of the amount of sale per buyer/customer, as well as from casual buyers/ customers with individual sales amounting to P100,000 or more. For this purpose, the term "regular buyers/ customers" shall refer to buyers/customers who are engaged in business or exercise of profession and those with whom the taxpayer has transacted at least six (6) transactions regardless of amount per transaction either in the previous year or current year. The term "casual buyers/customers", on the other hand, shall refer to buyers/customers who are engaged in business or exercise of profession but did not qualify as regular buyers/customers as defined in the preceding statement.

The foregoing paragraph, notwithstanding, information pertaining to sales made to buyers not engaged in business or practice of profession (e.g., foreign embassies) may still be required from the seller the details of which shall be covered by a separate revenue issuance.

The Quarterly Summary List of Sales to Regular Buyers/Customers and Casual Buyers/Customers and Output Tax shall reflect the following :

(1) BIR-registered name of the buyer who is engaged in business/exercise of profession;
(2) Taxpayer Identification Number of the buyer (Only for sales that are subject to VAT);
(3) Exempt Sales;
(4) Zero-rated Sales;
(5) Sales Subject to VAT (exclusive of VAT); and
(6) Output Tax (VAT on sales).

(The total amount of sales shall be system-generated)

d. Information that must be Contained in the Quarterly Summary List of Purchases.--

The following information must be indicated in the following quarterly summary schedules of purchases :

(1) The Quarterly Summary List of Local Purchases and Input Tax

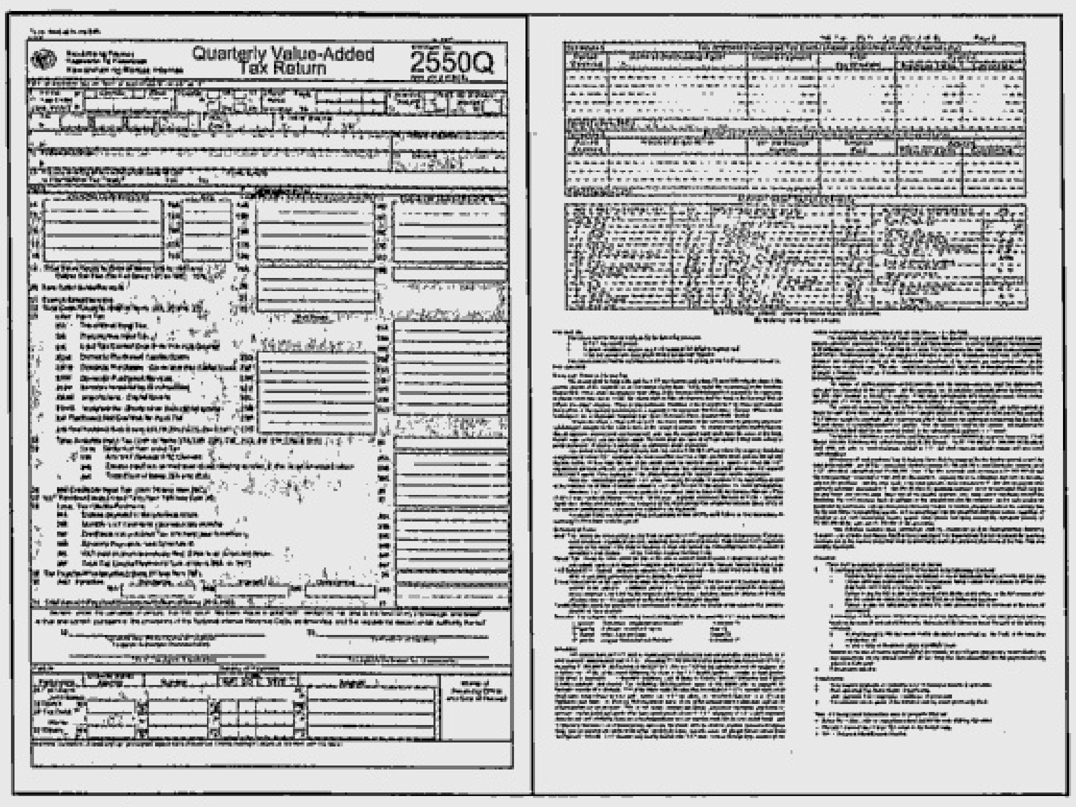
a. BIR-registered name of the seller/supplier/service- provider;
b. Address of seller/supplier/service-provider;
c. Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) of the seller;
d. Exempt Purchases;
e. Zero-rated Purchases;
f
   (i) Purchases Subject to VAT (exclusive of VAT) --on services;
   (ii) Purchases Subject to VAT (exclusive of VAT) -- on capital goods; and
   (iii) Purchases Subject to VAT (exclusive of VAT) -- on goods other than capital goods

g. Creditable Input Tax; and
h. Non-Creditable Input Tax.
} (to be computed not on a per supplier basis but on a per month basis)

(The total amount of purchases shall be system-generated)

"(2) The Quarterly Summary List of Importations

(a) The import entry declaration number;
(b) Assessment/Release Date;
(c) The date of importation;
(d) The name of the seller;
(e) Country of Origin;
(f) Dutiable Value;
(g) All Charges Before Release From Customs' Custody;
(h) Landed cost;
   (i) Exempt;
   (ii) Taxable (Subject to VAT);
(i) VAT paid;
(j) Official Receipt (OR) Number of the Official Receipt evidencing payment of the tax; and
(k) Date of VAT payment.



Quarterly Value-Added Tax Return

2550Q

For the claimed input tax arising from services rendered in the Philippines by non-residents, no summary list is required to be submitted.

e. Rules in the Presentation of the Required Information in the Summary Schedules. -

(1) The summary schedules of sales to regular buyers/customers shall not only refer to sales subject to VAT but shall likewise include exempt and zero-rated sales.

(2) The summary schedule of purchases likewise shall not only refer to purchases subject to VAT but also to exempt and zero-rated purchases.

(3) The names of sellers/suppliers/service-providers and the buyers/customers shall be alphabetically arranged and presented in the schedules.

(4) All the summary lists or schedules mentioned above for submission to the BIR shall mention as heading or caption of the report/list/schedule the BIR-registered name, trade name, address and Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN) of the taxpayer-filer and the covered period of the report/list/schedule.

(5) Failure to mention the TIN of the buyer in the "Schedule of Sales" would not have any effect on the seller but may be a ground for the audit of the records of the buyer or of both the buyer and the seller.

(6) The quarterly summary lists shall reflect the consolidated monthly transactions per seller/supplier or buyer for each of the three (3) months of the VAT taxable quarter of the taxpayer as reflected in the quarterly VAT return except the summary list of importation which shall show the individual transactions for the month for each month of the taxable quarter/VAT quarter. Thus, the period covered by the aforementioned summary list required to be submitted to the BIR shall be the covered period of the corresponding quarterly VAT return.

(7) The Quarterly Summary List of Sales and Purchases shall be submitted in magnetic form using 3.5-inch floppy diskettes following the format provided in Subsection (g) hereof. To provide for a clear-cut rule on the mandatory submission of the said summary lists in diskette form, the following shall be observed:

(a) Submission of said summary lists in diskette form shall be required for the taxable quarter where the total sales (taxable-net of VAT, zero-rated, exempt) exceed Two Million Five Hundred Thousand (P2,500,000) or total purchases (taxable-net of VAT, zero-rated, exempt) exceed One Million Pesos (P1,000,000). Thus, if the total quarterly sales amounted to P3,000,000 and the total quarterly purchases amounted to P900,000, the quarterly summary list to be submitted shall only be for sales and not for purchases. On the other hand, if the total quarterly sales amounted to P2,000,000 and the total quarterly purchases amounted to P1,500,000 then the quarterly summary list to be submitted shall only be for purchases and not for sales.

(b) Once any of the taxable quarters total sales and/or purchases exceed the threshold amounts as provided above, the VAT taxpayer, in addition to the requirement that the summary list for such quarter be submitted in accordance with the herein prescribed electronic format, shall be further required to submit the summary lists for the next three (3) succeeding quarters, still in accordance with the herein prescribed electronic format, regardless of whether or not such succeeding taxable quarter sales and/ or purchases exceed the herein set threshold amounts of P2,500,000 for sales and P1,000,000 for purchases.

f. The threshold amounts as herein set for sales and purchases may be increased/modified by the Commissioner if it is necessary for the improvement in tax administration.

g. Required Procedure and Format in the Submission of Quarterly List of Sales/ Purchases. -

The Quarterly Summary List of Sales and Purchases as required above shall be submitted directly to the RDO or LTDO or LTAD having jurisdiction over the taxpayer on the same date when the Quarterly VAT return is due for filing with and the tax thereon due for payment to the appropriate AAB or BIR Office, whichever is applicable. The list shall contain all the information required in the preceding paragraphs and shall conform to the electronic format to be prescribed in a Revenue Memorandum Circular (RMC), using any of the following:

1. Excel format;
2. Taxpayer's own extract program; or
3. The Data Entry Module developed by the BIR that will be available upon request or by downloading from the BIR's web site at http://www.bir.gov.ph, with the corresponding job aid to be provided in a RMC to be issued by the BIR.

"For those who would choose either option 1 or option 2, such taxpayers shall use a validation module developed by the BIR, which can either be downloaded from the BIR website or made available in diskette form upon request.

"Only diskettes readable upon submission shall be considered as duly filed/submitted Quarterly Summary List of Sales and Output Tax/Purchases and Input Tax/Importations. Failure to submit the aforementioned quarterly summary lists in the manner prescribed above shall be punishable under the pertinent provisions of the Code and regulations and shall trigger an audit of taxpayer's VAT liabilities."

SEC. 5. PENALTY PROVISION . - A new provision is hereby added under Sec. 4.110 of RR 7-95, as amended, providing for the imposition of penalties in case of failure to submit quarterly summary list of sales and purchases in accordance with the manner prescribed above, which shall read as follows:

"SEC. 4.110-5. Penalty Provision. -- In accordance with the provisions of the Tax Code of 1997, a person who fails to file, keep or supply a statement, list, or information required herein on the date prescribed therefor shall pay, upon notice and demand by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, an administrative penalty of One thousand pesos (P1,000) for each such failure, unless it is shown that such failure is due to reasonable cause and not to willful neglect. For this purpose, the failure to supply the required information for each buyer or seller of goods and services shall constitute a single act or omission punishable hereof. However, the aggregate amount to be imposed for all such failures during a taxable year shall not exceed Twenty-five thousand pesos (P25,000).

In addition to the imposition of the administrative penalty, willful failure by such person to keep any record and to supply the correct and accurate information at the time or times as required herein, shall be subject to the criminal penalty under the relevant provisions of the Tax Code of 1997 (e.g., Sec. 255, Sec. 256, etc.), upon conviction of the offender.

The imposition of any of the penalties under the Tax Code of 1997 and the compromise of the criminal penalty on such violations, notwithstanding, shall not in any manner relieve the violating taxpayer from the obligation to submit the required documents.

Finally, the administrative penalty shall be imposed at all times, upon due notice and demand by the Commissioner of Internal Revenue. A subpoena duces tecum for the submission of the required documents shall be issued on the second offense. A third offense shall set the motion for a criminal prosecution of the offender.

SEC. 6. COMPROMISE AGREEMENT.- If violation of the provisions of Section 4 hereof is compromised by the Bureau of Internal Revenue with the violating taxpayer, submission of the unsubmitted lists should always form part of the obligation of the taxpayer embodied in the compromise agreement.

SEC. 7. TRANSITORY PROVISION. -- The shifting from a calendar quarter VAT return to a fiscal quarter VAT return shall start in the fiscal quarter ending July 31, 2002 which is due for filing on or before Aug. 25, 2002. Since the last quarterly VAT return filed covers the quarter ending June 30, 2002, the initial short-period quarterly VAT return for the fiscal quarter ending July 31, 2002 shall cover only one month period. For this fiscal quarter, no monthly VAT declaration need be filed. Likewise, for the fiscal quarter ending Aug. 31, 2002, the initial short-period quarterly VAT return shall cover a two-month period which is the period from July 1, 2002 to August 31, 2002. The monthly VAT declaration that need be filed for this fiscal quarter is the VAT declaration for the month of July only. Correspondingly, the quarterly summary lists of sales/purchases appurtenant thereto shall be filed in accordance with the rules herein prescribed.

The magnetic file format prescribed in RR 13-97, as amended by RR 7-99, shall apply to the Quarterly Summary List of Sales and Output Tax/Purchases and Input Tax/Importations/Services rendered in the Philippines by non-residents covering the quarters ending March 31, 2002 and June 30, 2002. However, in the preparation of the Schedules of Sales and Purchases for submission to the BIR as herein prescribed, covering the quarter ending July 31, 2002 and thereafter, the electronic format, using any of the options provided in Section 4 of these Regulations, shall be adopted.

As provided in Section 4 hereof, the diskettes to be submitted for this purpose must be readable; otherwise, the same shall be considered as not to have been submitted at all. However, for diskettes of schedules covering the quarters ending March 31, 2002 and June 30, 2002, which have not been successfully uploaded in the BIR system in violation of the provisions of RR 13-97 as amended by RR 7-99 the same must be re-filed on or before August 31, 2002, after using the validation program of the BIR. However, it is emphasized that all schedules covering the quarter ending July 31, 2002 and thereafter shall strictly comply with the new provisions hereof.

The prescribed diskettes shall be submitted to the concerned BIR Office having jurisdiction over the taxpayer's principal place of business (head office) or where it is required to be registered, without prejudice to the privilege of transmitting the data electronically to the BIR National Office once it is ready for this activity and the taxpayer is registered for this purpose.

SEC. 8. REPEALING CLAUSE. - The provisions of any revenue regulations, revenue memorandum order, revenue memorandum circular or any other issuance of the Bureau of Internal Revenue inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE. - These Regulations shall take effect fifteen (15) days from publication hereof.

JOSE ISIDRO N. CAMACHO
Secretary of Finance
June - 1920 - 00F | 30th

Recommending Approval :

RENÉ G. BAÑEZ
Commissioner of Internal Revenue

KEEP HELPING BUILD OUR NATION. PLEASE PAY YOUR TAXES.

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowersand thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms. source: **pagasa**

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Hi32° Lo25°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 24° Lo 17°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Hi 36° Lo 23°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 34° Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 25°
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 26°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 2°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Armin Adina, PDI Research/06/27/02

School hit for refusing to enroll girl 'with dark past'

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—A private school ran by lay missionaries of Assumption in an urban poor community here is under fire from its teachers, parents, alumni, volunteers and former staffers for refusing to enroll an erstwhile street child.

A position paper signed by 150 persons, mostly residents of Barrio Obrero, said the board of directors of the Auxiliary Missionaries of the Assumption at the Assumption Socio-Education Center (ASEC) deprived a 12-year-old girl her right to education.

The paper said the board refused to enroll her because she came from a halfway home for abused and abandoned children.

The board's decision led to the resignation of ASEC's principal, Ma. Elinor Gatpatan, on June 12.

Gatpatan said the board's refusal to reconsider its decision showed that it lacked trust and confidence in her and the teachers who earlier gave assurances that they could handle the case.

"There is nothing in the school's admission policy that I had violated by taking in the child. The school can still help the child even if the board believes that she has a dark past," said Gatpatan in a press conference Monday.

Grace, whose identity was withheld upon request, was plucked from the streets by the Department of Social Welfare and Development after her parents abandoned her in 1999. She was taken to Chameleon Association, a French-funded institution that provides shelter and rehabilitation to abused and abandoned girls on Panay Island.

This year, Grace was declared "fully rehabilitated" by a social worker, psychologist and her former teachers. She is ready for integration to normal life and was placed by Chameleon in an "after-care program" under a temporary foster home in Barrio Obrero.

Ellien Regondon, the executive director of Chameleon, herself an ASEC alumnus, said the school's values and education are suited for Grace who is on her way to healing.

Grace passed the entrance test and grade requirement for Grade 4. A narrative in her report card from her previous school, Passi I Central School in Passi City, noted that she showed interest in her studies, participated actively in class discussions and got along well with others.

Gatpatan decided to admit Grace on May 2, after a case conference attended by the school's head teachers and the entire fourth grade teachers. However, the board asked Gatpatan to explain why the child was admitted when she is not a resident of the Assumption of Our Lady Parish of Barrio Obrero.

Gatpatan countered that the school has been admitting students from other urban poor communities in the city provided their parents attend major school activities.

On June 10, the first day of classes, Grace went to school. The following day, the principal received a letter from the board saying the girl should not be admitted because "she is a special child needing special care."

Power rate hikes in provinces seen

BAGUIO CITY—Before President Macapagal-Arroyo makes any more assurances that consumer bills for electricity would soon go down, she better take note of this revelation.

Rural electric utilities have computed an increase in power billing charges for provincial households because of the controversial Electric Power Industry Reform Act (Republic Act 9136), a representative of the Philippine Rural Electric Cooperatives Association (Philreca) said here on Wednesday.

Epira, which marked its first year on Wednesday, sets a cap on all industry cross-subsidies, including a social mandate that requires rural electric cooperatives (RECs) to shoulder the electrification and consumer billing costs of poor communities.

Gerardo Verzosa, manager of the Benguet Electric Cooperative (Beneco), said this "tragic flaw" will surface at month's end when RECs comply with Epira's directive to "unbundle" their rates.

By unbundling, power industry players are required to flesh out to the last detail all the bases for each power agency's or power firm's billing charges.

Many RECs have already "unbundled" their rates using a uniform rate design imposed by the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC).

This should reveal "the true cost of electricity" in every community, Verzosa, a former Philreca director, said.

The ERC is conducting hearings to validate these unbundled rates.

But Beneco's unbundling figures reveal an increase of five centavos per kilowatt-hour in consumer rates for Baguio and Benguet, Verzosa said in a forum here.

The same computations reveal a lowering of consumption costs for high-end Baguio users like Camp John Hay, most big firms and commercial industries supplied by Beneco, he said.

"This (ERC) unbundling formula tells us that power rates will certainly be reduced, but only for the commercial sector. Residential consumers will be forced to shoulder the bulk of the supply cost because the law defines them as the biggest volume of consumers," he said.

Because the Epira frowns upon subsidies, the unbundling design does not recognize the REC's fee structures, which distributed the "true cost of electricity" across many sectors, he said.

"Epira was designed for people with money, the (power industry players) who have money," Verzosa said.

Philreca and the party-list group Association of Philippine Electric Cooperatives (Apec) were some of the main actors in the campaign against Epira.

The RECs had opposed several industry deregulation terms in the old omnibus power reform bill that restricted or abolished the power cooperatives' "social" mandate.

They also spearheaded protests in 2000 against the purchased power adjustments (PPA), when consumers in the Visayas started suing the RECs there for high billing charges.

Verzosa said the RECs are prepared to offer the ERC an alternative "unbundling" design.

But he said power distributors have decided to toe the ERC line because many cooperatives are still cautious about the consequences of the Epira on local electricity use.

Beneco is the first REC to be liberated from the mandatory supply contracts with the National Power Corp. Unlike most RECs, Beneco opted for short-term renewable contracts and is no longer bound by these terms, Verzosa said. ***Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Agno folk protest plan to expand open pit mine

By Yolanda Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

AGNO, Pangasinan—It seems that this town's environmental woes will never end.

Still fighting the construction of a proposed cement plant complex, residents are faced with another ecologically critical projects—open pit mining for limestone and silica in six villages here.

The Union Cement Corp. (formerly Bacnotan Cement Corp.) proposed the limestone quarry project to cover 1,462 hectares in Barangays Magsaysay, Tupa, Gayusan and Baruan, and the expansion of its silica quarry project by 1,246 hectares in Barangays Namatucan and Allabon.

The company has also set its sights on limestone quarry areas in Balaoan and Luna towns in La Union.

The Technotrix Philippines, which prepared a report for the projects, said these were needed "to ensure fair return of the foreign investment."

To extract the minerals, the UCC will use a mineral bulldozer and will conduct occasional blasting.

The silica quarrying in this town will be 25 meters deep while limestone quarrying will be 30 meters deep.

The residents asked Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez not to issue an environmental compliance certificate for the projects. They also asked Alvarez to deny the firm's application for applied production sharing agreements (Apsa).

Lydia Colobong, an environmental-activist from the town, said the projects are "destructive" to the environment, quoting the firm's environmental impact statement (EIS), which admitted that "development activities entail unavoidable effects on the environment."

Colobong said the company was granted a 25-year mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) in 1984.

She did not know how many hectares were covered by the old agreement, but the company wanted it expanded by another 1,246 hectares.

William Abenes, safety, environmental and community relations manager of UCC, assured the residents that the firm had put up mitigating measures like the restoration of topsoil and replanting of mined out areas.

Abenes said livelihood and infrastructure projects would be given to affected villages.

NAP AT SEA DENNIS SABANGAN

A fisherman takes a nap in his boat off Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte, unmindful of the continuing military search for the body of Abu Sayyaf spokesperson Abu Sabaya.

Robin Padilla brother, 2 others die in road crash

DAET, Camarines Norte—Resty Padilla, paternal brother of actor Robin Padilla and younger brother of former Rep. Roy Padilla Jr., and two others died when their van collided with a Coca-Cola soft drinks delivery truck at about 10 a.m., yesterday in Barangay Masalong, Labo town.

Arnie Arenal, the former mayor of Jose Panganiban town and considered by many as the "Little Governor" and close confidant of Camarines Norte Gov. Jesus Typoco Jr., was among those seriously injured in the vehicular accident.

Senior Supt. Florencio Magundayao identified those who died instantly as Malou Cariño and Domingo Mago who both merely hitched a ride with Padilla's group, which was then going home to Daet.

Padilla, head of Barangay Motherload in Jose Panganiban, suffered multiple fractures and later died at the Lourdes Hospital in Daet.

He was on his way back to Daet with Arenal and several members of the Sangguniang Bayan of Jose Panganiban.

Arenal suffered serious head and spinal injuries and was expected to be airlifted to Manila yesterday.

Typoco had called up Chief Supt. Enrique Galang Jr., Bicol police chief, at Camp Simeon Ola in Legazpi City for the immediate dispatch of a Philippine National Police helicopter for the airlift. ***Luis Abano Sr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Robbers shoot guard dead, take ₱2M from Cebu bank

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A security guard was shot dead yesterday by three masked armed suspects who robbed a Metrobank branch on Ramos Street here and fled with about P2 million in cash.

The police said the suspects killed Alejandro Posa, the bank's lone security guard, early dawn yesterday. The robbers then brought the slain security guard inside the bank, where they waited for bank manager Emma Salvador to report for work at 8 a.m.

When Salvador and the 10 other bank employees arrived, the suspects ordered the bank manager to open the vault and then hog-tied them inside the toilet. The suspects fled after getting the money.

Security guard Alan Gaspe, who reported for work shortly after 8 a.m., saw the ongoing robbery and immediately reported it to the police. But the robbers were already gone when the police arrived.

Supt. Josephus Angan, acting Cebu City police chief, ordered an investigation to determine the identities of the suspects.

Mayor Tomas Osmeña said the city government would offer a cash reward for any information that would lead to the identity and arrest of the suspects.

He said he believed the three suspects were part of a syndicate operating in Cebu because the robbery was well planned.

Police investigators were looking into the possible involvement of another security guard, Joel Empiedad, who was supposed to take over from Posa, whose shift was from 8 p.m. to 6 a.m.

The robbers could have tasked Empiedad to stay at the door and to wait for Salvador and the other employees to arrive, the police suspected.

But Empiedad claimed that he did not resist the robbers because of fear after the suspects threatened to kill him.

Cebu City Councilor George Rama said Empiedad told him that the suspects were already inside the bank when he arrived at about 5:50 a.m.

Iloilo mayor stops operation of 'bikini car-wash' joint

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—No more bikini-clad babes soaping cars.

A car wash business here has been ordered to stop its controversial service featuring young women in two-piece swimsuits after it was found to be operating without a business permit.

"They have been told to stop the bikini car wash immediately," said Iloilo City Mayor Jerry Treñas.

Treñas also warned the management of the Marina Restaurant, which operates the car wash, not "to do it again."

He said he does not want "our women to be exploited."

Lerma Española, chief of the city's licensing and permits division, said the restaurant applied for a business permit for the car wash last June 13. The business firm can operate while they comply with the requirements within 15 days.

But Española said there was no mention of a bikini car wash in the application.

Lawyer Mary Milagros Hechanova of the city legal office, said the car wash application for a permit will be denied if the bikini car wash continues.

"The women can continue washing the cars but not in bikinis or in similar attire," said Hechanova.

She added that even if the application was revised to include the bikini car wash, it would "most likely be disapproved because bikinis have nothing to do with car washing."

Teresita Rosal, manager of the restaurant, said the bikini car wash is just for "promotion until the business clicks." She said they have no plans to offer it as a permanent service.

The car wash, a stone throw from the Iloilo City campus of the University of the Philippines in the Visayas along Benigno Aquino Avenue, has attracted an increasing number of male customers since it opened on June 1.

The young women of the car wash, mostly in their late teens and dressed in colorful two-piece bikinis, would sponge from seven to 12 cars usually with male drivers from 3 to 6 p.m. every day.

The women, who are high school graduates, are paid P400 each for a three-hour work. They said they are "enjoying" their work, which helps them support their families.

The bikini car wash costs more than twice the regular service, which is done by male personnel who, unlike their female counterparts, are fully clothed.

Bayan Muna Rep. Liza Maza praised Treñas for stopping the controversial car wash. "We must nip in the bud these business gimmicks that exploit women for profit," Maza said in a telephone interview with the INQUIRER.

The legislator, also the secretary general of the militant women's group Gabriela, earlier said she would urged Treñas to revoke the permit of the car wash.

Gabriela has condemned the car wash scheme as "degrading and an outright exploitation of women."

Despite the mayor's order stopping the bikini car wash, the group vowed to hold protest actions to ensure a permanent ban on "cheap business gimmicks that insult the dignity of women," according to Lucy Francisco, spokesperson of Gabriela-Panay.

INQUIRER*Southern Luzon*
Editor Jun Bandayrel ◉ *Bureau Chief* Floreño G. Solmirano

CALIRAYA-LUMUT WATERSHED

'Let the lungs of the earth breathe'

By Romulo O. Ponte
Cavinti, Laguna

A GROUP of resort owners and concerned residents living along the Caliraya and Lumut lakes in Laguna has embarked on a gigantic task to avert the destruction of the two man-made mountain lakes.

The people fear that if the present rate of destruction of watersheds around these eco-tourism areas continues, all trees and forest covers there could be wiped out, causing massive erosion.

It could also signal the end of the awesome tourism destinations, according to a document furnished by the Caliraya-Lumut Lake Conservation Society (CLCS).

The CLCS is involved in the sustainable and environmentally sound use of resources around the two lakes. Most of its members are owners of resorts around Caliraya in Lumban town and Lumut in Cavinti town.

Noting that the country's remaining forest cover has shrunk to merely five percent since the turn of the 20th century, the CLCS document said the same pattern of destruction has been observed in the forested areas that preserve and protect Caliraya and Lumut lakes.

Thus, the group has embarked on a yearlong "Save the Watershed" campaign.

Precarious condition

It has initiated steps to slow down and eventually stop the trend by educating the public, especially barangay officials and residents, on their crucial links to the Caliraya-Lumut Watershed.

The CLCS is laying down a network with various stakeholders in the community to achieve its two main objectives: rehabilitation of the forest through tree-planting and related activities; and the immediate provision of alternative livelihood sources for families around the area.

The livelihood sources should complement the nature of the watershed and will replace tree cutting and logging ventures.

Through the information campaign, the CLCS is reminding the government of its responsibility to uphold the primordial function of the Caliraya-Lumut watershed to save the lake from destruction and maintain ecological balance.

It is drawing public attention to the forests as the lungs of the earth, and the sponge of aquifers that allow rains to feed the rivers and lakes, preventing erosion, siltation and flooding of the land.

Concert

The campaign kicked off on June 23 with a concert of songs and dances dubbed "Huni ng Gubat" (Hymn of the Forest), featuring Joey Ayala, Grace Nono, the Makiling Ensemble and other performers.

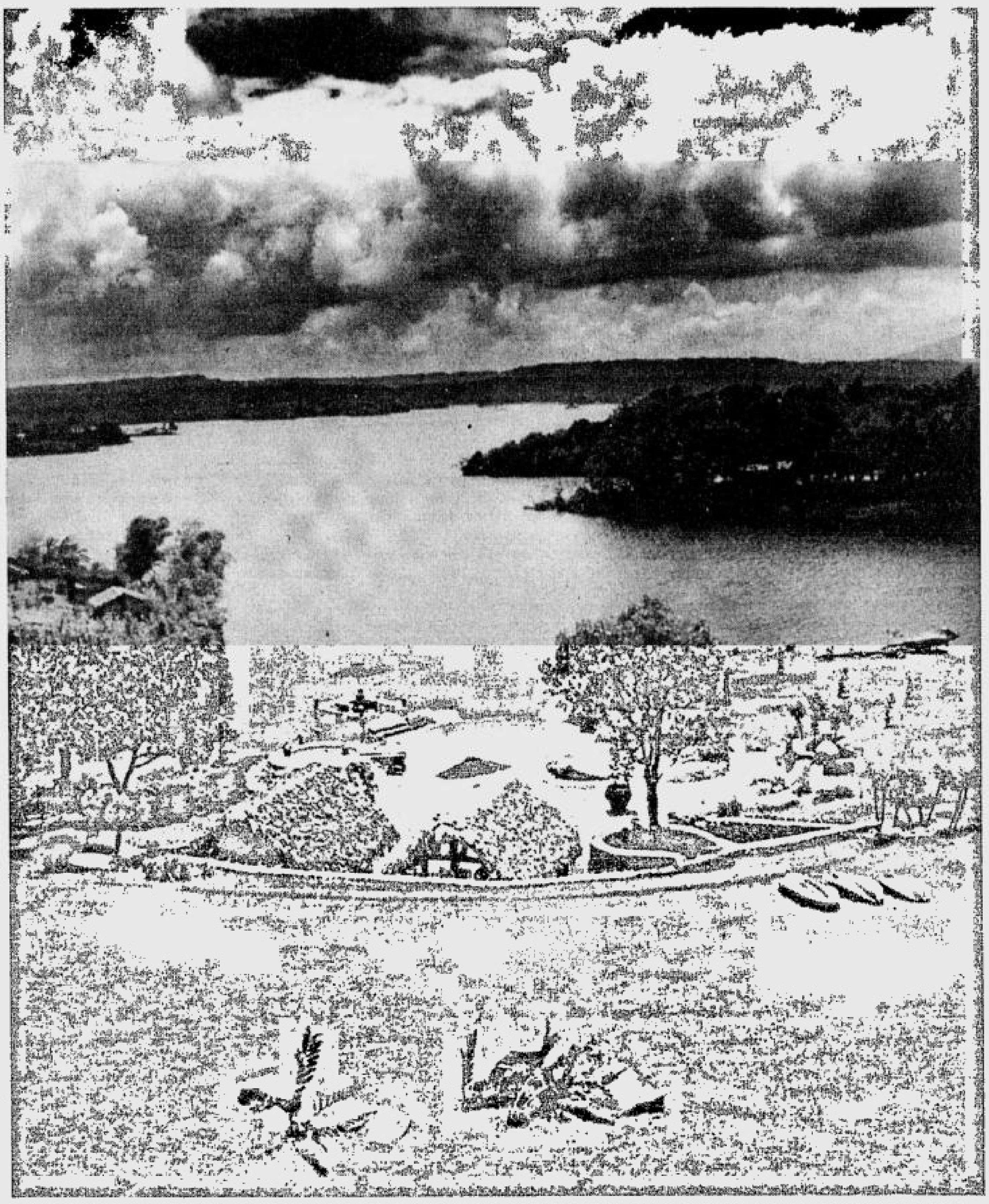
A graphic presentation shown by Humbelina Castro, vice president for environment and community relations of CBK (Caliraya-Butukan-Kalayaan) Power Co., revealed that the rate of destruction of watersheds around the two lakes has come to its worst in 1998. Now, a little forest reserve has been left to protect the lakes, she said.

Erosion

Castro underscored the importance of the watersheds as sources of water to recharge groundwater aquifers—the base floor of rivers and streams—and as the "lungs of the earth," cleansing the atmosphere of pollutants and sequestering carbon dioxide to control global warming. The watersheds, she said, have water and soil holding capacities. Every big tree can hold as much as 25 gallons of water.

The roots of trees provide a stable matrix for the topsoil, controlling erosion and preventing the loss of its natural richness that nurtures agriculture.

When he came to the Philippines 27 years ago, Peter Wallace, CLCS president, said the watersheds around the lakes were still in very good condition. Now, massive soil erosion has occurred around the lakes because people continue to cut trees with impunity.



THE MAN-MADE Caliraya and Lumut lakes are the subjects of a "Save the Watershed" campaign initiated by resort owners and other residents.
FILE PHOTO/CHITO VECINA

A representative of the National Power Corp. said illegal logging activities had been rampant around Caliraya and Lumut. "These activities had been going on long before the Napocor came to the area, and the agency is trying to find solutions to these problems," the official added.

The lakes are bounded by Lumban, Cavinti and Kalayaan towns, and have a total area of 10,700 hectares.

Cavinti Mayor Floro Esguerra said law enforcers have always reminded people living in the forested areas not to indulge in tree cutting in the watershed.

He admitted, however, that sometimes, "our law enforcers hesitate to arrest offenders, simply because the municipal government could not offer alternative job opportunities for them."

Wallace said the CLCS would want to set an example to the residents around the lake watersheds of being conscious of ways to preserve and protect the natural resources.

With the help of sponsors, the group plans to teach the people safety, swimming skills and precautions in using the lake for sports, recreation and other activities, he said.

The CLCS president recalled that a pregnant woman who did not know how to swim drowned recently in shallow waters simply because she panicked. "She could have survived easily because the water was very shallow," he said.

The CLCS, Wallace said, also planned to impart skills on proper garbage disposal on the residents and tourists.

"For instance, tourists who come to visit the lakes for picnic (or other recreation purposes) should be told to bring back (to their homes) whatever garbage they had brought with them to the area," he said.

Water source

According to the CLCS document, the Caliraya-Lumut Watershed is the major source of the Pagsanjan-Lumban river system, the biggest contributor to the Laguna Lake which, in turn, is the largest source of water for communities, including the plush Ayala Alabang.

Aside from being a major source of drinking water to the National Capital Region and other parts of Luzon, the Caliraya-Lumut Watershed is also the forest reserve of the Caliraya lake hydroelectric plant, which directly provides electricity to the Luzon power grid, it said.

The CLCS said it was willing to work hand in hand with the Napocor and the local governments of Cavinti, Lumban and Kalayaan to ensure the protection of the trees.

A CLCS member asked the mayor to remind those caught cutting trees to at least replant. Most of the offenders are squatters in the area, Esguerra said.

These people, after being reprimanded, will just transfer to another site and continue to destroy trees, the mayor said. About 1,500 persons living near the lakes are settlers who came from other provinces, he said.

Zoning

Ma. Victoria Dizon, CLCS director and chair of the Lumut subcommittee, agreed with Wallace that the group would like to pursue the implementation of the zoning of the lake by the Napocor.

The group is also keen on promoting basic education among the communities around the lakes. Dizon said people should be taught composting and segregation of garbage so that they would do away with burning to get rid of garbage.

She cited the need to reach out with the villagers and dialogue with them "to find out what it is really that they would want to do with their lives on a long-term basis."

Meantime, she said, the CLCS deemed it urgent to work with the government and students to embark on planting of trees, including fruit-bearing ones, around the lake with the help of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Napocor and other concerned agencies.

New Caliraya dam project fuels fears

The CONSTRUCTION of a dam by an independent power producer near the Caliraya Lake is expected to be completed soon amid warnings by an environmentalist group of the dangers it might pose to local residents.

Sesinando M. Fernando, an officer of the Caliraya-Lumut Lake Conservation Society (CLCS) based in Lumban, Laguna, said it was uncertain if CBK (Caliraya-Butukan-Kalayaan) Power Co. had secured an environmental compliance certificate from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for its project.

Fernando also said he did not know if CBK or the National Power Corp. had conducted consultations with 10 to 12 villagers downstream who could be directly affected by the dam's spillover.

Humbelina M. Castro, CBK vice president for environment and community relations, said the DENR approved the construction of the facility alongside the lake but was not sure if consultations were made with the residents.

The National Power Corp is in-charge of the consultations, Castro said in a press conference held on June 23 in Cavinti. A Napocor representative, who was present during the press conference, said he could not categorically state if any consultation was made.

Spillover

Fernando, a resort owner in the area, noted that since the dam has an open natural spillway, excess water from the lake during rainy days will flow freely downstream "and this is dangerous to the people living in the village."

Three years ago, he recalled, a flashflood occurred in Caliraya after a typhoon and at least five villagers drowned.

The resort owner recommended that local authorities and experts closely monitor the construction of the power facility to ensure that its retaining wall, design and structure can withstand typhoons, earthquakes and other natural disturbances.

Cavinti Mayor Floro Esguerra supported the government's approval of an IPP facility in the lake area. He said he could not understand why people are complaining today when "we are assured of continuous electricity because of these IPPs."

"I would rather pay some more amount of money for electric bills as long as we are assured of continuous supply daily," Esguerra said.

A document furnished to media by Castro cited CBK's vision as "the best hydropower company and will set the standard for availability, profitability, safety, environmental compliance, human resource management and social sensitivity."

The company "shall comply with relevant regulations and conditions of its permits, prevent pollution, provide good working conditions, and effect continual environmental improvement in the conduct of its hydropower business."

It "shall assist its host communities achieve ecologically sustainable development through organizational and capability development and proper planning of objects funded from the legally mandated financial benefits of host communities of energy projects."

Romulo O. Ponte

Bicol songwriting contest revives vanishing traits

By Juan Escandor Jr.
Goa, Camarines Sur

REGARDLESS of whether the entries are sung in the style of *tagulaylay*, a Bicol folk song, rock, fusion or rap, Bicol songwriters and artists participating in a song festival in Goa, Camarines Sur are nostalgic about the bygone days.

The songs yearn of the days when women were demure, rivers were crystal clear and verdant hills and mountains abound with chirping birds.

The "Goa Songwriting Festival," held every December, has attracted participants from all over the region whose songs reflect the vanishing culture and places that were still there several decades ago.

Mayor Marcel Pan, 42, who conceptualized the festival, said he was surprised that most of the entries celebrated the finest in Bicol culture, as well as the places that have been overtaken by development.

Other songs carry messages about contemporary culture and women spending their time reading *Filipino* novels and watching *telenovelas.*

Pan said he was optimistic that the songwriting festival could help preserve the Bicolanos' heritage.

Two compact discs are already on sale and have earned for local government at least P500,000, he said.

The songwriting contest began four years ago but was open only to residents of the town. Pan said he was so overwhelmed by the response of the local artists that he invited participants from the 37 towns and cities in Camarines Sur the following year.

After the event's resounding success, the mayor encouraged participation from all over the region on the third year.

Pan said the festival has spurred plans to use the songs to promote tourism. Produced in popular videoke CDs, the songs will be used to promote erstwhile unknown tourist destinations in Bicol.

"Using the tourist destinations as the background, we will produce videoke CDs that can be used in bars," Pan said.

Later, he said, the local government unit would also produce a series of concerts in the region and in Metro Manila.

The Goa Songwriting Festival is not the first project to touch on original Bicol compositions. In the early '80s, then assemblyman and now Gov. Luis R. Villafuerte pioneered this type of competition with his Bicol Pop Music Festival.

However, the songs of the early music festival were not recorded.

"With the technology that we have now and the penchant of many Bicolanos to sing their hearts out, I think this is one medium where our cultural heritage could be preserved," Pan said.

He said it would not be long when, through the songwriting festival, the Bicolanos could produce songs acceptable to many listeners.

"Remember that when *Sarong Banggui* was composed in the early '20s, there were no recording studios yet but it became popular because of its melody and honest message about the Bicolanos," the mayor said.

7 top PNP officers axed

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Wilfredo R. Reotutar, a retired general of the PNP, who did a study on jueteng.

The protection money even reached Malacañang. Former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson claimed that Estrada had received P30 million monthly from jueteng operators. Singson's accusation led to the impeachment of Estrada and to his eventual ouster.

"It is of public perception that jueteng and other illegal gambling activities will not thrive and flourish within a province, city or municipality without the connivance, protection or tolerance of our law enforcement officers and the local government executives," Napolcom said.

The order to relieve the seven police officials was contained in Resolution No. 2002-063-A of the six-member Napolcom.

"The commission, in the exercise of its administration and control function over the PNP (Philippine National Police), has resolved to direct, as it hereby directs the CPNP (outgoing PNP chief Leandro Mendoza) to issue relief orders, upon clearance from the Commission on Elections," says the resolution.

The Comelec has imposed a ban on the transfer of government officials because of the barangay elections scheduled for July 15.

Besides Lina, Napolcom members Mendoza, Rogelio Pureza, Edgar Dula Torres, Jose Percival Adiong and Linda Malenab-Hornilla signed the resolution.

Foreshadowing the relief of the seven police officers was President Macapagal-Arroyo's statement on Tuesday that police officials should take the blame for the blunder of policemen under their direct supervision.

With such policy, the President hoped that this would minimize wrongdoing in the PNP.

"The new ethic here is there is no room for errors. (Policemen) who make blunders will have to go," Ms Macapagal said.

The President said erring policemen would be immediately dismissed while their direct superiors would be held accountable under the principle of command responsibility.

"If the one who did the wrongdoing is dismissed, then his direct commander is (also) suspended. But each time a unit repeats the blunder, the command responsibility goes higher and higher," she said.

On Saturday, the President said she was dissatisfied with the PNP leadership's decision to subject to "retraining" the Pasay policemen who recently botched a hostage situation. She said the retraining was "good but weak."

The President said the 20 Pasay policemen, including Supt. Eduardo de la Cerna, Pasay police chief, should have been immediately dismissed and charged in connection with the death of 4-year-old hostage Dexter Balala.

Earlier upon the President's orders, incoming PNP chief Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane dismissed the jail guards of Pentagon kidnap leader Faisal Marohombsar.

Marohombsar, the alleged mastermind behind the abduction of Italian Fr. Giuseppe Pierantoni, escaped from Camp Crame on Friday.

Memorandum

The seven police officials were ordered removed from their posts for not heeding Napolcom's Memorandum Circular No. 2002-005.

The circular directs all police directors, chiefs of police and station commanders to "immediately undertake an all-out campaign to stop and eradicate jueteng and other illegal gambling activities."

"Despite repeated verbal reminders and warnings during command conferences with senior PNP officers, written notices regarding the presence of illegal gambling in their areas of responsibility, said vices continue to proliferate as confirmed by raids/operations conducted by law enforcement units not organic to the areas of responsibilities of these directors," the resolution said.

Lina said that from May 6, when the memorandum took effect, up to June 21, raids conducted by law enforcement units not under the command of the relieved police officials showed that illegal gambling activities abound in Metro Manila, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog and Central Visayas as well as the provinces of Laguna and Cebu, and Manila.

Strike three

Lina said more than three cases of illegal gambling had been reported in the areas of jurisdiction of the relieved officers.

The interior secretary had earlier adopted a "three-strike-and-you're-out policy." For a police regional director, this means three or more separate raids in his jurisdiction by a police unit belonging to another region.

For a police provincial director, this means three or more raids in his jurisdiction by a police unit not belonging to his command. The raids should result in the arrest of violators of Presidential Decree No. 1602 and/or the confiscation of gambling paraphernalia such as *buliyo*, *lastilyas*, *cotejo*, bets and other related items.

Napolcom was just doing its work when it ordered the relief of the officials, according to the interior secretary.

"This is a clear manifestation of the desire of the President to go for good governance," Lina said of the resolution. "We are just enforcing the policies."

Command responsibility

To sustain the vigorous campaign against jueteng and other illegal gambling activities, Napolcom said the doctrine of command responsibility must be strictly applied.

Lina warned other officials to stay on their toes. "Those who do not follow the policy will suffer the same fate," he told reporters.

But he said the relieved officials could be given assignments by the PNP chief. "They will be removed from their present positions, but the PNP hierarchy can give them special assignments," Lina said.

He said the officers could explain in the hearing and investigation to be conducted by Napolcom to determine whether they should be charged.

Lina dispelled fears that crime might worsen following the relief of the police officials.

"If you cannot be good in small things, you cannot be good in big things," he said.

Asked whether the relief order would demoralize policemen, Ebdane said that it should not.

"This is in consonance with the policy of the government. There is a collective agreement that we must put a stop to illegal gambling. There are parameters that have been agreed upon in the covenant," said Ebdane, who was present yesterday when Lina presented Napolcom's resolution.

"The PNP adheres to policy guidelines and other pronouncements especially coming from the Napolcom. We are a team. Whatever is the decision has to be followed. There is what we call a leadership principle—to take responsibility for actions whatever the outcome," he said. ***With a report from Dona Pazzibugan***

GMA calls off search for Sabaya's body

From page A1

manned surveillance aircraft equipped with detection cameras that the United States deployed in Mindanao to help track down the Abu Sayyaf.

Known to pop up in cinema houses with her family during weekends, Ms Macapagal told the appreciative audience that she had reviewed the "movie."

Her verdict: "Well, let me tell you that what I saw was more accurate than what they depicted in 'The Patriot'."

She meant "Patriot Games," a movie based on Tom Clancy's novel of the same title which features a thermal imaging scene, with commandos staging a night raid on a terrorist camp in the desert shown only as thermal outlines.

"I saw the movie (recording of spy planes) but I can't show you the movie because we cannot expose the details of the technological capability of the Americans," she said.

She also said the two military informers with Sabaya on the fateful boat ride had avoided any mishap during the June 21 encounter because they were wearing high-technology "necklaces."

Scaled-down search

"Last night, I told (Defense) Secretary (Angelo) Reyes, I think we should call off our search," the President said yesterday.

"And if the Navy SEALS of the US are available to help us, then let's have a small unit of ours, so that it's not all being done by the Americans alone," Ms Macapagal added.

"But I think the bulk of our forces there should go not finding the dead leader but the four remaining live leaders of the Abu Sayyaf," she said.

These are Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani, Jainal Antel Sali, Isnilon Hapilon and Hamsitaji Marusi Sali.

The military has reportedly shifted the focus of its operations from Basilan, the spawning ground of the Abu Sayyaf, to neighboring Sulu.

Following her orders, the military yesterday pulled out its naval and air assets from the search operation.

Retired Gen. Melchor Rosales, spokesperson for the operation, announced the pullout, saying the move was a bid to "scale down" the operation.

A Navy patrol boat, some members of the Army's Special Forces Riverine unit and the 102nd Brigade will be the only ones to remain.

They will be supported by fishermen and local officials from Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte.

"There are about five ships, three helicopters and the Army's Riverine unit. So in concept, what will happen is the regular forces that are assigned in the area will take over the activity," Rosales explained.

He added that the "maneuver forces," including the ships and the helicopters, would be pulled out and shifted for other operations.

"The downsizing of the recovery efforts is being undertaken to enable the Armed Forces to shift its personnel and material in our areas for the remaining leaders of the Abu Sayyaf and their followers. The parallel effort against the Abu Sayyaf will continue until the last terrorist member is accounted for," Rosales said.

Operation recounted

During the conference at the Intercontinental Hotel in Makati City, the President recounted last week's events.

"Our asset was able to reveal to our soldiers that Abu Sabaya already asked his best friend to send a boat at 10 p.m. at night (July 20) from Zamboanga to Sibuco to fetch him," she said, referring to Gardo Ibrahim, alias of the tipster who collected P5 million on Tuesday.

"So the boat went with our asset, followed by our own Navy boats and the American spy planes showed it all because they recorded it."

"It showed the seven Abu Sayyaf getting on the boat. It showed them getting into Sibuco Bay. Then it showed the other (Navy) boat coming (in) and about an hour of following and (when) they had the opportune time, our boat rammed their boat at the same time that the firefight began," she said.

"And when the boat was rushing to their boat, our (two) assets jumped into the sea," the President said, meaning Ibrahim and the still unnamed second asset who was in Sabaya's boat.

She explained how the two assets survived the firefight in which Sabaya and two others were killed. Four other Abu Sayyaf bandits were captured.

"They were briefed before they went and they were given a necklace which flashed when our soldiers would turn on their Krypton flashlights and their night vision equipment," Ms Macapagal said.

"Their (soldiers') equipment will show the light flashing on the chest of our assets. Therefore they will know that's a friendly force and they are not supposed to fire on them."

"And they (assets) were told that the moment the attack begins, jump into the water. So they followed (instructions) very well," the President said.

She explained that she was disclosing more details about the operation because of skepticism about Sabaya's presumed death.

The President described the soldiers who participated in the operation as "so happy and depressurized after" the encounter. She stressed that the "battle of Sibuco was very clear" and it was because of "perfect technology, perfect planning, perfect execution."

Commander Robot

At the Senate, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay asked the Department of Justice to use Ghalib Andang alias Commander Robot as a state witness against other leaders of the Abu Sayyaf group in Basilan and Sulu, after reports circulated that Sulu Gov. Yusop Jikiri had convinced Andang to give up arms and return to the fold of law.

Magsaysay said the Sulu-based Andang had ceased from kidnapping foreigners or local businessmen in the area.

Sen. Ralph Recto said the Armed Forces must focus on Sabaya's remaining associates, not his remains.

"The job now is to find Abu Sabaya's buddies, not his body," Recto said.

Recto also urged the public to accept the military's statement that Sabaya was killed by Navy commandos off the coast of Sibuco, Zamboanga del Norte last week.

"If we have lavished praise on the commandos, can we not take their word for it?'

"It will also send the wrong impression that the killing of Sabaya was the terminal end of the anti-terror campaign. Let us remember that Sabaya was the spin master, but not the master planner of the group," he added.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said that the military should now shift its efforts from searching Sabaya's body to going after the abductors of three Indonesian crewmen.

"These abductors should be eliminated not only for obvious reasons, but also to send a strong signal to Abu Sayyaf copy-cat criminals who might think that they can also commit these crimes with impunity," he said.

In Camp Aguinaldo, a few minutes after Rosales' press briefing, a man calling himself "Abu Hamid" and claiming to be a political officer of the Abu Sayyaf called up the Defense Press Corps office.

He said that the June 21 incident off Sibuco was a mere "moro-moro" and that Abu Sabaya was still "alive."

Sabaya, he said, was not in the boat which was rammed by the military and that he was actually in Basilan.

Sabaya, he said, would surface anytime "this week" or "next time."

The boat used by the military in the "moro-moro," he said, was owned by a barangay captain who was also a former Civilian Armed Force Geographical Unit member.

The man called up the DPC office four times. ***With reports from Cynthia Balana, Reuters, AFP***

'What a way . . .

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confirm that we are being relieved," he said.

Razon asked that they be given due process so they could present their side.

"This does not mean that I want to hang on to my position. In fact, I am ready to be relieved anytime. I am on the process of being relieved, *pero wag naman ganito* (but not like this)," he said.

His relief came a few weeks after Razon announced that he was going to be promoted as chief of the Directorate for Intelligence.

Reconsider

Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, head of the National Capital Region Police Office, said he would ask for a reconsideration of the order.

Aglipay, once touted as a contender for the PNP chief post, said he had done everything in his power to stop illegal gambling in Metro Manila.

"I've done much in terms of utilizing men, money and other resources . . . It was a campaign that involved my heart and mind," he said.

"(But) It's a vice. Many factors contribute to its proliferation. It has cultural, social and economic aspects and there should be a (multifaceted) approach to counter it," he said in Filipino.

Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya and several other officials ordered relieved went to Camp Crame to explain their side.

After meetings with Napolcom officials, they talked to the media.

Berroya, in an interview aired over Channel 7, said there was an apparent mistake in the order.

He said the deal between the PNP officers and the Department of Interior and Local Government was for the raids on "jueteng" to be conducted by a unit not part of a local unit.

"In his (Interior Secretary Jose Lina) own memorandum, it is stated that if there are three (successful raids) in a municipality which are not participated in by the local police, the chief of police of that municipality would be relieved," Berroya said in Filipino.

"If the same situation exists in 30 municipalities, the provincial director would be relieved and if three provincial directors are affected, then the regional director is relieved," he said.

In his area, Berroya said there were four raids and all of them were conducted with the participation of the local units.

Chief Supt. Domingo Reyes, chief of the Police Office in Southern Tagalog, complained that he was not accorded "due process."

Surprised

"There were no investigations conducted. I was surprised when I heard the news of my supposed dismissal," Reyes said.

"The news of my ouster came so suddenly," he said.

"I will make an appeal, at least to request that I be given a day in court," Reyes said.

But just like a professional police officer, Reyes said he would follow the order.

"Anyway, none of us here possesses a '*titulo torens*' in this position," he said.

Reyes said the Southern Tagalog police had many notable accomplishments during his watch.

"We conducted successful raids on illegal gambling operations. Their network has been busted," he said.

But he lamented that those gains had been eclipsed by reports of alleged proliferation of "jueteng."

Not remiss

Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr., Manilas' Western Police District director, said he could be "relieved anytime but not for being remiss in my duty to fight illegal gambling."

Pasinos told reporters that he had requested outgoing PNP chief Leandro Mendoza to reconsider the decision to sack him.

"I cannot accept that I am being relieved because I was allegedly remiss in my duty. We were never remiss in our campaigns. My record will prove that," Pasinos said.

"Even before that circular against jueteng came out in April, we were already cracking down hard on gambling. This despite all the rallies and other security (problems) in Manila," he added.

Pasinos said that the WPD had arrested 231 people for illegal gambling and charged 196 before the courts.

Sack all

He said that the if his superiors were going after officers, who did not eradicate "jueteng" in their areas, then "everyone should go."

"If they want zero gambling activity, then all of us (regional and district directors) should be sacked. The list (of officers who should be relieved) should be longer than that of the seven officers reported," Pasinos said.

In Camp Olivas, Pampanga, junior police officials expressed surprise when Lina announced the relief of Berroya.

"Where's the (copy of the) order?" they asked.

Lina, in a recent interview, had said that "jueteng" remained "very high" in Pampanga, Bulacan and Nueva Ecija.

Camp Olivas sources of the INQUIRER saw Berroya's relief coming.

The prospect had lingered since May because of rampant "jueteng" operations especially in Pampanga, President Macapagal-Arroyo's home province, according to a source.

2004 elections

But a source defended Berroya, saying that "whoever heads the police in the region will really have a hard time because jueteng is so entrenched. It has the backing of local government officials preparing for the 2004 (elections)."

Last week, Berroya dispelled reports that he had received from Lina a memorandum ordering a crackdown on illegal gambling.

"*Di ako nagkulang* (I wasn't remiss in my duties)," Berroya then told the INQUIRER, citing almost 1,000 anti-jueteng raids since January.

Despite the protests, Ms Macapagal will not intercede for the seven top PNP officials.

"I guess the President can reverse the (Napolcom's) decision," acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable, Jr. said. "But (at) this point, she's not interested (in doing so)."

When a reporter pointed out that some of those affected such as Aglipay and Berroya were close to the President, Afable said "that's not the issue."

He added "the issue is the authority and legitimacy of Napolcom's action, because Napolcom has its work to do." ***Reports from Kathy I. Navarro and Connie E. Fernandez, PDI Visayas Bureau; Martin P. Marfil, Philip C. Tubeza and Dona Pazzibugan in Manila; Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Spare kid, hold rod

From page A1

become controversial in recent years, but remains widely used in many parts of the world. Many studies have been done but the findings vary.

Psychologist Elizabeth Thompson Gershoff of the National Center for Children in Poverty at New York's Columbia University analyzed 88 different studies conducted since 1938 on spanking and smacking.

Spanking was strongly linked with immediate compliance, but also with 10 negative behaviors such as aggression, antisocial behavior and abuse of children and spouses in adulthood, she reported in the July issue of Psychological Bulletin published by the American Psychological Association.

"There is general consensus that corporal punishment is effective in getting children to comply immediately, while at the same time there is caution from child abuse researchers that corporal punishment, by its nature, can escalate into physical maltreatment," Gershoff wrote.

But she said physical punishment did not automatically mean a child would grow up to be hostile or violent.

"The act of corporal punishment itself is different across (the spectrum of) parents—parents vary in how frequently they use it, how forcefully they administer it, how emotionally aroused they are when they do it, and whether they combine it with other techniques," she said.

The more often or more harshly a child was hit, the more likely he was to become aggressive or to have mental health problems when he grew up, Gershoff found.

Gershoff stopped short of endorsing a legal ban on parental corporal punishment, saying the United States was unlikely to emulate a group of European countries in taking that step. However, she urged parents who spank to reconsider their options.

"When they're in a situation where they're considering spanking, think of something else to do—leave the room, count to 10, and come back again," Gershoff said in an interview on Tuesday. "The risk is just too great."

Spanking is not the best form of discipline, Gershoff said, because it does not teach children right from wrong. Although it makes children afraid to disobey when parents are present, they feel free to misbehave if they believe they can get away with it, she said.

Her analysis was accompanied in the Psychological Bulletin by a critique from three other psychologists.

They defend mild to moderate spanking as a viable disciplinary option but advise parents with abusive tendencies to avoid spanking altogether.

One of them, Robert Larzelere, a psychology professor at the Nebraska Medical Center, noted that while Gershoff found links between spanking and negative behaviors, she did not assert categorically that spanking caused those behaviors.

Larzelere, in an interview, said he remained convinced that mild, nonabusive spanking can be an effective reinforcement of nonphysical disciplinary methods, particularly in dealing with defiant 2- to 6-year-olds. He shared concerns about spanking that is too severe or too frequent.

Reuters, AP

Sept. 11 brains may have planned attacks while in RP

From page A1

Mendoza said Mohammed, the FBI's most wanted terrorist after Bin Laden, reportedly lived in the Philippines in 1994-95 with his nephew, Ramzi Yousef.

Yousef was later convicted and sentenced to life in prison for his role in the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center.

Plots hatched

"Many of the things (Mohammed) is suspected of plotting may have been planned" in the Philippines, Mendoza said in an interview with The Associated Press on Tuesday.

Mohammed, 37, has not been charged in the Sept. 11 attacks, but he has been charged in a 1995 plot to bomb or hijack 11 US-bound flights originating in Asian countries, including the Philippines.

US officials say he also allegedly worked with Yousef on the initial World Trade Center bombing in 1993.

Using the aliases Abdul Majid and Salem Ali, Mohammed arrived in the Philippines in early 1994 and stayed mostly in Yousef's Manila apartment.

Mendoza said Mohammed and Yousef went to Puerto Galera, a beach resort in Occidental Mindoro, in December 1994 to take a week-long scuba diving course.

Yousef's Filipino girlfriend told police she had met Mohammed, who portrayed himself as a rich businessman from Qatar.

One meeting took place at a five-star hotel in Makati, Mendoza recalled.

He added that Mohammed and his companions also frequented nightclubs and hotel bars in Manila.

The uncle and nephew even rented a helicopter to impress a dentist Mohammed was courting.

The woman challenged Mohammed, who flew the helicopter himself, "to rent an aircraft and fly over (her clinic) while talking with the lady dentist through his mobile phone and waving," Mendoza said.

$25-M reward

The US government is offering up to $25 million for information leading to Mohammed's arrest. He is believed to be hiding somewhere in Afghanistan.

Much of the information on Mohammed's past activities in the Philippines had been revealed in a series of interrogations with Abdul Hakim al Hashim Murad, a Pakistani arrested in Manila in 1995 for allegedly plotting to kill Pope John Paul II and conspiring in the plot to hijack US-bound airliners.

Mohammed appeared to have supervised the planning for those two attacks that would have been carried out by Yousef, Murad and several companions had the plots not been discovered.

"He was organizing things, the others were operatives," Mendoza said of Mohammed.

A confidential Philippine National Police report prepared by Mendoza said Mohammed, Yousef, Murad and Osama Asmurai, an al-Qaida agent also known as Wali Khan Amin Shah, coordinated with al-Qaida's support networks in the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia while planning the plot to down airliners.

Mohammed had traveled to Israel and the United States, according to the report.

Police arrested Murad in 1995 when he returned to retrieve belongings from a rented Manila apartment, which he and Yousef abandoned hours earlier after a small explosion from chemical bomb ingredients sent smoke billowing out the window.

One of the most important items found in Yousef's room was a laptop computer, which contained details on the plot and information on al-Qaida figures, including a picture of Mohammed, Mendoza said.

After Murad's arrest, Yousef fled to Pakistan, where he was later arrested and then handed over to US custody.

Mohammed fled the Philippines for an unknown destination.

Murad told interrogators that he first met Mohammed in July 1993 at Mohammed's house in Karachi, Pakistan, which he and Yousef visited.

In that and succeeding meetings, their conversations focused mainly on aircraft because of Mohammed's intense interest in pilot training, Mendoza quoted Murad as saying. ***AP***

Gloria calls bearers of bad news 'false prophets'

From page A1

brings about a state of helplessness and skepticism," she declared.

The President said the media had to "point out the good news to balance (the bad news) so our people will not despair."

Ms Macapagal also aired a complaint against the ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC), a cable affiliate of the ABS-CBN network.

She said the ANC a few nights ago reported that the American Chamber of Commerce saw the Philippines as the most corrupt country in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which has 10 members. It turned out that the survey only compared Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines.

"So the good news is that we are now comparable to the NICs (newly industrialized countries) of Asean," the President said.

"A glass is half full or half empty depending on how you want to see it. Yes, the glass is 19-percent empty, but it is more than half full because 60 percent disagrees with the statement," she said.

Loser's mentality

In remarks before the Financial Executives Institute yesterday, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the "loser's mentality" of Filipinos, their fondness for second-hand clothes and their penchant for circumventing laws and evading taxes were partly to blame for the country's slow progress.

Camacho, in apparent reference to the Pulse Asia survey findings, said Filipinos lacked a common sense of nation-building and believed instead that this was purely the responsibility of the government.

"Why do we manage to always shoot ourselves in the foot. It is so frustrating to work in government and to sometimes see our efforts being unappreciated," he said.

"We seem to have a losers mentality, we strive very hard to buy second-hand clothes or second-hand cars . . . Why do we even want to wear somebody else's old clothes," the finance chief asked. A former investment banker, Camacho is known to be the richest member of the Macapagal cabinet, with reported assets of P330 million.

"Why do we think nation-building is a sole responsibility of the government when it should be a national agenda that should be shared and embraced by everybody including the private sector," he said.

Camacho admitted he was frustrated not only with the loser's mentality but also with the psychology of wanting to take a short-cut with success and in the process, circumventing policies and evading taxes.

"People would want to think how to get around a regulation instead of supporting it. We should all practice what we preach and we must start with paying our taxes correctly," he said.

The poor collection performance of the Bureaus of Internal Revenue and Customs has been blamed for the government's widening budget deficit. In the first four months, the government's shortfall reached P83 billion or almost two-thirds of the P130-billion target for the year.

"If we want the BIR to do a good job, we have to share that responsibility. We have to stay away from avoiding our taxes and to stop bribing BIR and Customs officials," Camacho told the financial executives.

Wake-up call

In the Senate, an opposition leader said the survey results were a wake-up call for the Macapagal administration. "A political leadership that ignores education, health, jobs and people's welfare will always drive its people away," Sen. Edgardo Angara said. "Without investments on precious human capital, there will be no hope."

But the majority leader of the House of Representatives said "politicking" was partly to blame. Rep. Neptali Gonzales II said the survey was an "indictment" of the leadership of both the administration and the opposition.

"It's an indication that we have to get our acts together and refrain from politicking," Gonzales said in a phone interview.

Gonzales said there was so much politicking that people begin to lose hope for a better future. He conceded that the country has an economy that is sensitive to the political situation, noting for instance that a shaky political situation affects business confidence. Angara had led this month's opposition takeover in the Senate, which created a public backlash.

Administration Sen. Ralph Recto said the survey results were proof that the "transplantation of the Filipino race" to other parts of the world had long begun.

"For many of our countrymen, exit of the country is the only way out of poverty," Recto said. "Not even immigration barriers erected by other countries will deter Filipinos from settling in those."

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said that the results were "not surprising given that for a long time that the expectations of the people are always raised with the changes of government through people power and election after the Marcos regime."

"But they end up always disappointed even today under the Macapagal administration where there are many unemployed and development is slow," Ocampo said in a phone interview. ***With reports from Cynthia Balana and Christine Avendaño***

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Ecleo survives . . .

From page A1

a few meters from the infirmary detention cell where Ecleo and 10 other inmates were being held, tried to help Arrofo in subduing Idaño but failed. Manlangit was unarmed.

Ecleo, who is facing parricide and drug possession charges, suffered bruises in the arm when he parried Idaño's stabbing motions. Ecleo was moved to the office of the jail warden to ease the tension at the infirmary.

When the gunshots rang out, his fellow inmates and those from adjoining cells went on a frenzy and tried to break out. They were also angered by Idaño's killing and started demanding "justice," but the guards prevented them from going after Ecleo.

Supt. Lita Quilaton, the jail warden, ordered an immediate investigation of the incident. She said she had to confiscate the badge and identification card of Arrofo and place him on floating status pending results of the inquiry.

Quilaton said Arrofo should explain why he was armed while inside the cell. Guards are not allowed to carry firearms inside the detention cells, she added.

She requested an augmentation force in the facility from her superiors. A fire truck and personnel from the city's fire department were later deployed on the premises. Three police patrol cars were detailed in front of the city jail, along with 20 members of the Philippine National Police's Regional Mobile Group.

Quilaton said Idaño was recently convicted of murder and was serving his life sentence. The attacker was facing another case of possession of illegal drugs before the Cebu Regional Trial Court.

Ecleo's account

Ecleo told reporters that he was surprised by the attack.

He said he woke up at 6:30 a.m. and was contemplating on a Biblical passage being read by Quilaton over the detention facility's loudspeakers when he noticed Idaño tailing him.

At 7 a.m., Ecleo said Idaño whispered to him that the guards would soon padlock him (Idaño) somewhere. Later, Idaño got hold of his toothbrush and placed it in his pocket.

Ecleo said that when he asked for his toothbrush, Idaño ignored him. "He never did listen to me when I told him, '*bay, ako-a na nang* toothbrush, *binoang na man ning imo.* (Friend, please give me my toothbrush. This is not funny),'" Ecleo narrated.

He said he saw Idaño sharpening the toothbrush by grinding it on the cement wall. "He was also constantly peeping outside and always blocking my way," Ecleo said.

The former mayor of San Jose, Surigao del Norte, said Idaño went after him when he requested the guard to call his mother, Surigao Del Norte Rep. Glenda Ecleo.

"That was when he . . . attacked me pointing the improvised tooth brush at my left chest. Of course, I defended myself . . . I then gave him an elbow punch," Ecleo said.

He said his fellow inmates, together with the unarmed jail officer, tried to subdue Idaño, but the attacker was very strong. Arrofo, who was about to go off duty and was on his way to change out of his uniform, responded to the commotion.

Ecleo said he saw Arrofo fire his gun but the attacker did not heed the warning. He said he heard another shot and saw that Idaño was hit.

Sudden change

Ecleo said Idaño had been "nice" to him until yesterday morning. "He was not in his usual self. He looked like he has taken drugs because he kept on grinding his teeth. I really don't know if he intended to hurt me."

Ecleo has been accused of killing his wife Alona in January. The victim's body was found inside a garbage bag dumped into a ravine in Dalaguete town, 85 km from here, on Jan. 8.

The PBMA leader was arrested only on June 19 at his mansion in San Jose town on Dinagat Island in Surigao del Norte, following a nightlong gun battle with lawmen that left 19 of his followers and one policeman dead.

Lawyer Orlando Salatandre, Ecleo's legal counsel, has asked the court to order the transfer of his client to Camp Sergio Osmeña, PNP regional headquarters, or Camp Lapu-lapu, the Armed Forces of the Philippines' Central Command headquarters.

Charges

In Butuan City, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group on Monday filed three criminal cases against Ecleo for the death of a policeman, the wounding of two others, and the recovery of 21 high-powered firearms in last week's clash in Dinagat.

Supt. Francisco Tique, CIDG chief for Caraga, said his office had formally lodged homicide, frustrated homicide and illegal possession of firearms cases against Ecleo before the Surigao provincial prosecutor's office.

Tique stressed that the former mayor should be held responsible for the death of PO3 Rogelio Morandante and the wounding of two policemen after his followers fired at government forces serving the arrest warrant. ***With a report from Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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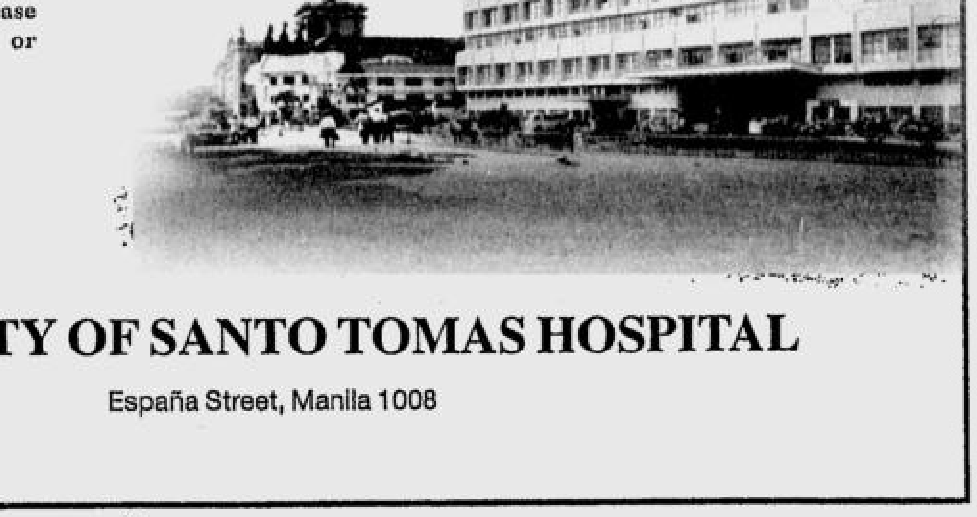

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TENNIS: Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships, Day #3 Highlights at 8 a.m. (r – 11:30 a.m.), Day 3, Second Round at 12 noon (r), Day 4, 2nd/3rd Round at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: Winning and Losing - Gary Player 40 Opens at 7 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

SUPERPOWERS CLASH SUNDAY

Brazil defeats Turkey, 1-0

SAITAMA, Japan—Ronaldo took his tournament tally to six goals as four-time champion Brazil beat Turkey, 1-0, on Wednesday to set up a World Cup final against Germany.

Ronaldo pounced in the 49th minute after he and Rivaldo had been denied by some fine goalkeeping from Turkish goalkeeper Rustu Recber.

Receiving the ball on the left, the Inter Milan striker – with three players around him - powered his way into the penalty area and almost effortlessly poked the ball into the left-hand corner past Recber, who got one hand to it.

Brazil had struggled in the South American qualifiers and was not considered one of the tournament favorites. But, like Germany, it has now qualified for a record seventh final, to be played Sunday in Yokohama, Japan.

Brazil made light of the absence of the creative Ronaldinho who was serving a one-match suspension after being sent off in the quarterfinal win over England.

Frustrated

Turkey's Hakan Sukur, yet to score a the World Cup, was clearly frustrated as he failed to get onto the end of Turkish breakaways.

In stoppage time, Recber spilled a cross from Roberto Carlos and had to lunge to scoop the ball away from Edilson.

Ronaldo's goal put him one ahead of Germany's Miroslav Klose and teammate Rivaldo in the race for the Golden Boot. It was the first time Rivaldo failed to score in a match at this World Cup.

Brazil set out to kill the game off after taking the lead.

The South Americans had a glorious chance in the 58th minute when Ronaldo turned provider and slipped the ball to Edilson who skewed a weak shot wide of the left post.

Turkey coach Senol Gunes, seeking to sharpen his attack, threw on striker Ilhan Mansiz, the golden goal hero against Senegal in the quarterfinal, in place of midfielder Emre Belozoglu.

Ronaldo, who had been suffering from a leg injury and appeared to be limping slightly, was taken off after 68 minutes.

But Brazil's tide of attacks continued relentlessly.

In the 71st, Recber had to come charging out of his area to clear an attack and then Luizao volleyed a right-wing cross from Cafu over the bar.

High cross

Sukur, who had been ineffective throughout the game, almost leveled the score in the 81st minute hooking back a high cross from Hasan Sas, only to see his sharp effort tipped around the post by Marcos.

Sas then received a yellow card in the 90th minute after hacking down Denilson who was showing some trickery down the right to try and kill time. It was his second of the knockout phase.

It was a rematch of the stormy Group C encounter which Brazil won 2-1 with a hotly disputed penalty. But there was little of the bad blood that had been expected in an open and entertaining game.

Turkey now plays South Korea for third place.

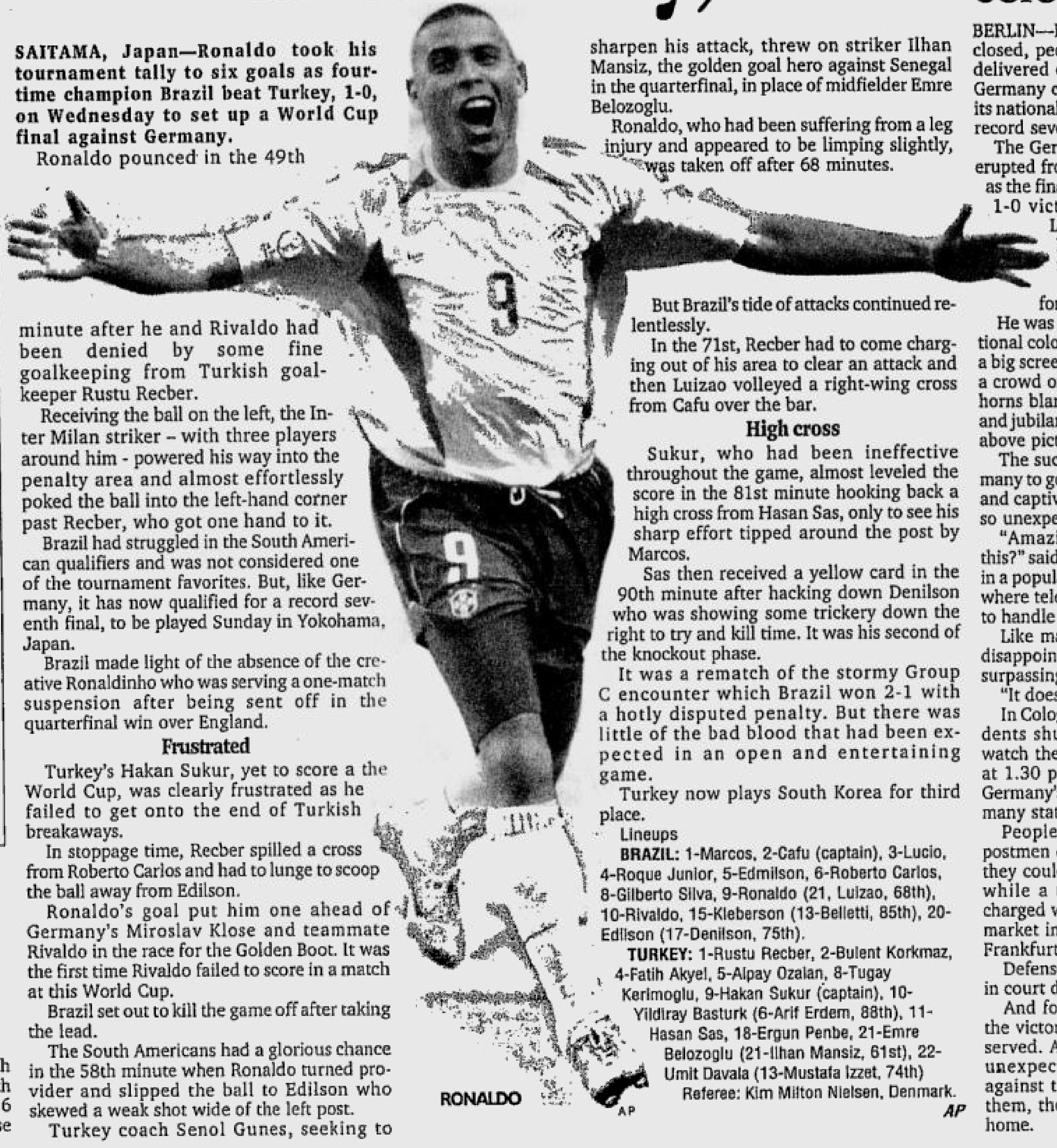
Lineups

BRAZIL: 1-Marcos, 2-Cafu (captain), 3-Lucio, 4-Roque Junior, 5-Edmilson, 6-Roberto Carlos, 8-Gilberto Silva, 9-Ronaldo (21, Luizao, 68th), 10-Rivaldo, 15-Kleberson (13-Belletti, 85th), 20-Edilson (17-Denilson, 75th).

TURKEY: 1-Rustu Recber, 2-Bulent Korkmaz, 4-Fatih Akyel, 5-Alpay Ozalan, 8-Tugay Kerimoglu, 9-Hakan Sukur (captain), 10-Yildiray Basturk (6-Arif Erdem, 88th), 11-Hasan Sas, 18-Ergun Penbe, 21-Emre Belozoglu (21-Ilhan Mansiz, 61st), 22-Umit Davala (13-Mustafa Izzet, 74th)

Referee: Kim Milton Nielsen, Denmark.

AP


RONALDO
AP

Koreans still rejoice despite team's loss

SEOUL—South Koreans kept on partying even after their team's remarkable World Cup adventure ended in a 1-0 defeat by Germany in Tuesday's semifinal.

After a pause of perhaps two minutes following the final whistle, sustained and spectacular fireworks erupted and fizzed over central Seoul, where more than one million people had congregated to watch the match on giant screens.

Fans, most in team-color red T-shirts, chanted "Dae Han Min Guk" (Republic of Korea) and danced to thumping music before singing the national anthem while highlights from the team's games flashed on screens at the main Kwanghwamoon intersection.

Police said some seven million people—a staggering one in seven of the population — were out on the streets across the country for one of the biggest parties Asia has seen. Just about everyone else will be transfixed before televisions at home.

It is a measure of South Korea's unexpected performance in the month-long finals that the party lasted so long. *AP*

Free beer flows as German fans celebrate win

BERLIN—Fireworks exploded, classes were closed, people went on strike, the mail was delivered early and the free beer flowed as Germany came to a near stop Tuesday to see its national team beat South Korea and reach a record seventh World Cup final.

The German word for victory, "Sieg, Sieg," erupted from overflowing crowds everywhere as the final seconds ticked off the clock in the 1-0 victory, resounding from Munich's Leopoldstrasse in the south or Hamburg's Reeperbahn in the north.

"It was cool! It was the best game for Germany," said Uwe Bindel, 38.

He was waving a flag and decked in the national colors from head to foot, watching from a big screen at Berlin's Potsdamer Platz amidst a crowd of 2,000. Outside the central square, horns blared and youths leaned out their car and jubilantly shook signs saying "final," pasted above pictures of the trophy.

The success of the German team, tipped by many to go down in the first round, has thrilled and captivated Germans - because it has come so unexpectedly.

"Amazing, just amazing. Who expected this?" said Michael Heindrich, a student sitting in a popular Berlin watering hole, Keyser Soze, where televisions were set up on the sidewalk to handle the overflowing crowds.

Like many, Heindrich said he wouldn't be disappointed if the team lost the final after far surpassing expectations.

"It doesn't, doesn't matter, at all," he said.

In Cologne and Hamburg, many superintendents shut down classes so children could watch the afternoon match, which kicked off at 1.30 p.m. on a weekday. The Reichstag, Germany's parliament in Berlin, stopped as did many state parliaments.

People reported that across the country postmen delivered the mail an hour early so they could beat it to their pub for the game, while a trial of five suspected terrorists charged with plotting to blow up a Christmas market in Strasbourg, France was delayed in Frankfurt.

Defense lawyers said they wouldn't appear in court during the match.

And for once, the fans were in agreement the victory against South Korea was well-deserved. After the German team survived an unexpectedly tough 1-0 quarterfinal win against the United States, which outplayed them, they were hit by scathing criticism at home. *AP*

Shell search for chess talents set

THE QUEST for fresh talents intensifies with the holding of the 2002 Shell National Youth Active Chess Championship first leg on July 6 and 7 at the Negros Occidental Multi-purpose Gym in Bacolod City on July 6 and 7.

Other sites and playing dates for the four-month long series are: Sacred Heart School—Jesuits in Cebu City (July 20 and 21), Gaisano Mall in Davao City (Aug. 3 and 4), De Luxe Hotel in Cagayan de Oro City (Aug. 17 and 18), Civic Centre in Agoo, La Union (Aug. 31 and Sept. 1), F. Barzaga's Memorial School in Dasmariñas, Cavite (Sept. 14 and 15), Bulwagang Batangan Provincial Capitol in Batangas City (Sept. 28 and 29), and Chess Plaza in Greenhills Shopping Centre, San Juan (Oct. 12 and 13).

More than P270,000 in cash prizes are at stake for the series.

Those who will emerge as regional champions in the junior and kiddie categories will compete in the tournament's grand finals on Nov. 8-10 at the 4th floor Bridge Level, SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City. ***Roy Luarca***

RACING TIPS

At San Lazaro By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Jellbeanjoy 2. Petro Dollar 3. Carte Blanche 4. Hurry Love

Race 2—1. Free Entrance 2. Super Dancer 3. Gifted Angel 4. Kingair 5. Titan

Race 3—1. Expediter 2. Pro Bono 3. Power Corrupts

Race 4—1. Cash McCall 2. Front Page 3. Woman's Task/ Bright Task 4. Enseguida

Race 5—1. Morning Glory 2. Arresbee 3. Do It David

Race 6—1. Good Quality 2. Earth Angel 3. Thunder Speed 4. Kiss Me Quick 5. Flirt 6. Be Ready

Race 7—1. Dimasupil 2. Silakbo 3. Perfect Date 4. Mighty Mickey 5. Aeyu's Glory

Race 8—1. Anahaw/Sabik 2. Gold Honors 3. Don't Tell Me

Race 9—1. Ringer Kid 2. Dynamite Jack 3. Run Doding Fly 4. Search for Gold 5. Snake Dancer

Pals seek 3-0 card vs tall Realtors

GAME TODAY *(Cuneta Astrodome)*
7 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Talk N Text

By June Navarro

TALK N Text take on the big boys of Sta. Lucia Realty in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup today at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Bunched atop the standings with Coca-Cola and Red Bull, the Phone Pals are aiming for a 3-0 slate when they face the Realtors in the lone 7 p.m. encounter.

Gerald Honeycutt, unshakable inside the shaded lane in the past two games, would definitely be challenged this time by the towering Realtors.

Stephen Howard (6-foot-8), Willie Farley (6-foot-6) and Marlou Aquino (6-foot-9) patrol the lanes for the Realtors with authority and are expected to gang up on the 6-foot-8 Honeycutt.

"We will be sized up against one of the tallest import combinations this conference. I'm sure it will be a big challenge for us," said American coach Bill Bayno of Talk N Text.

The Purefoods TJ Hotdogs fell prey to the Realtors' menacing frontline after dropping a 90-75 decision in an out-of-town game last week.

At that time, the Hotdogs squandered a 12-point lead in the fourth quarter as Farley, Howard and Aquino wreaked havoc inside.

Paolo Mendoza also joined the fray, unleashing timely baskets one after the other that paved the way for the Realtors to open their second conference stint on promising note.

"Most of the time speed beats height. That, precisely, is what we're gonna do," said Bayno, who, aside from Honeycutt, is pinning his hopes on Mark Telan and Victor Pablo to strengthen their defensive ties inside.

Celedon Camaso, coming off a stint in the RP training team, is a doubtful starter due to an injury but Bayno said he's entertaining thoughts of fielding the 6-foot-4 slasher to beef up their frontline.

The Phone Pals erased the memory of a disappointing finish last conference, clobbering the Shell Turbo Chargers, 89-72, and the FedEx Express, 96-90, for a roaring 2-0 start.

Bayno and his Phone Pals topped the eliminations of the Governors Cup but laid to waste their twice-to-beat advantage over San Miguel Beer in the quarterfinals.

Salazar outpointed, pockets silver medal

By Recah Trinidad

SEREMBAN, Malaysia—Light flyweight Lhyven Salazar, who put up what his coaches claimed was a winning performance, settled for the silver medal after being outpointed by a pressure-punching South Korean at the close of the 21st World Amateur Boxing Championship here Tuesday.

The Philippine anthem was not played but the national flag rose twice in the award rites after the eight-man RP-Caltex team collected two medals—a silver and a bronze—in the tough tournament participated in by 29 nations.

Bantamweight Ferdie Gamo, who picked up the bronze after being cheated out of his quarterfinal match, could only stare in dismay as the Uzbek slugger whom he had pummeled and dominated claimed the gold medal in his division.

Salazar, a gold medalist in Acropolis and Bosnia, was his old sharp self as he scored with clear blows to the head of the onrushing Hong Moo Won.

The peppery Korean, although often receiving hefty shots, tried to keep it even and flailed at Salazar in the fourth round.

Salazar, son of a sidewalk vendor from Bacolod who claimed he had an easy fight, was stunned with the final count that had him losing 11-17.

The fight was close but RP coach George Caliwan said that, "objectively" Salazar should have bagged the gold for the team funded by Caltex with backing from the Philippine Sports Commission, Pacific Heights and Revicon.

Powerhouse Uzbekistan, with four gold medals, topped the tournament. Other gold winners were Pakistan, 2; Thailand, 2. Host Malaysia and South Korean had one gold each.

Ateneo folk to party

ALL alumni, parents, families and friends of the Ateneo de Manila are being invited to the 2nd Annual Eagles' Night, a dinner-dance sponsored by the Booster Club on July 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the NBC Tent, The Fort.

The Booster Club brings together the various sectors of the University in an effort to show their moral support for all the athletes of the University's Program Sports which include badminton, baseball, basketball, cheerleading, fencing, football, judo, lawn tennis, swimming, taekwondo, track and field, and volleyball.

The highlight of the evening is the presentation of all athletes, who will compete in this year's 65th UAAP season.

The event will have video clips, music and dancing. Special prizes will be raffled away.

Tickets are available at the gate, through alumni class representatives, the Office of Planning and Development and Development and Alumni Affairs at tel. nos. 426-6081 and 82 and the University Athletics Office at 426-6001 loc. 4190 and 91.

A main feature of the evening is the presentation of the Blue Eagles, who just crowned themselves champions of the PBL Chairman's Cup.

After the victory, Coach Joel Banal said he would set his sights next on the UAAP title.

The UAAP cage wars begin on July 12.

An evil we will have to learn to live with

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I DO not doubt Recah Trinidad's reports about cheating in the just-concluded Asian boxing championship where he covered the misadventures of our boxers competing there. My podner knows his boxing. He can box as much as write about the sport with brilliance. Recah is mad about what he's seen—again—in Malaysia. I can't blame him.

I've seen even the so-called most respected referees in world boxing—both amateur and professional—do their dirty thing. I could only shake my head in disgust. At times, I couldn't help but curse.

It's become an evil. But it's an evil we will have to learn to live with.

Boxing is a highly subjective sport. Because it's a judged sport, the boxer does not usually decide the outcome. The only time the boxer can score a clear win is when he knocks out his opponent. But even a knockout, at times, does not ensure an absolute win. Only the referee can declare an absolute victory.

■

Congratulations to Joel Banal and the Ateneo Blue Eagles. But a hidden pair of heroes behind that victory are silently basking in the Eagle glory: Fr. Tito Caluag and Arben Santos. They were the authors of Ateneo's immersion in the PBL. What other schools failed to achieve in the nation's toughest amateur league, Ateneo did. That's another first for a school not only noted in basketball excellence but also in cerebral affairs.

Cheers!

■

Condolence to the loved ones of Charlie Badion. Good, ole Charlie died after a heart attack last week. He was 67. When they laid to rest Charlie's remains yesterday, a great chapter in Philippine basketball history has been closed.

Charlie was one of the friendliest Olympians I've ever met. He played for the Philippine basketball team in the Montreal Olympics in 1956 and the Rome Olympics in 1960.

The first time I met him (in the '80s), it felt like we've known each other for ages. He smiled while he talked. His eyes twinkled as words left his lips. I have yet to see someone baby a player he believed would go places. Pido Jarencio, the UST deadshot and later a PBA shooter from afar, was his favorite. Even when Pido was already bigtime, Charlie saw to it that his babe was always "up there."

One time, when I was having beer with friends at Dinky's in front of what was then the Ultra, Charlie walked in and, in his usual jolly mood, boomed: *"Kamusta iyong beybi ko, pare? Pare ha, huwag mong pababayaan. Mabait na bata iyan."*

His beybi, of course, was Pido. He had coached the kid at UST.

I was also coached as a basketball player by Charlie, who was one of the few who dared mentor the Sports Team when the NPC Inter-Beat Basketball Tournament was still the NPC Inter-Beat Basketball Tournament. I learned much from his coaching style. As proof, I coached the Sports Team that won the NPC Inter-Beat crown in 1991. The victory ended a title drought for Sports lasting more than 20 years. One of the stars of that team was Joey Gomez, who died some three weeks ago. Joey was an INQUIRER editorial man who made me the godfather of his eldest child.

Do they really come in threes?

Days after Joey left us, Rudy Navarro, the guy I helped install as sports editor of Tempo, died.

Joey, Rudy and Charlie, goodbye. You will all be missed.

MBA: Amigos snap Eagles' winning streak

GAMES TOMORROW
(Olongapo Convention Center)
3:30 p.m.—Batangas vs Pangasinan
6:30 p.m.—Pampanga vs Olongapo

Standings

Northern Conference	W	L
Pampanga	2	1
LBC Batangas	2	2
Gilbey's Olongapo	2	2
Osaka Pangasinan	1	2
Southern Conference	**W**	**L**
Professional Davao	4	1
Casino Cagayan de Oro	3	2
*Cebuana Lhuillier	1	3
*RCPI Negros	1	3

* Playing at presstime

By Roy Luarca

CEBU CITY—Casino Cagayan de Oro halted Professional Davao's winning streak with a vengeful 101-96 victory yesterday in the MBA National Conference at the Cebu Coliseum here.

The Amigos posted their third straight triumph after dropping their first two games in the Southern Conference and moved closer to the Eagles, who absorbed their first defeat in five games.

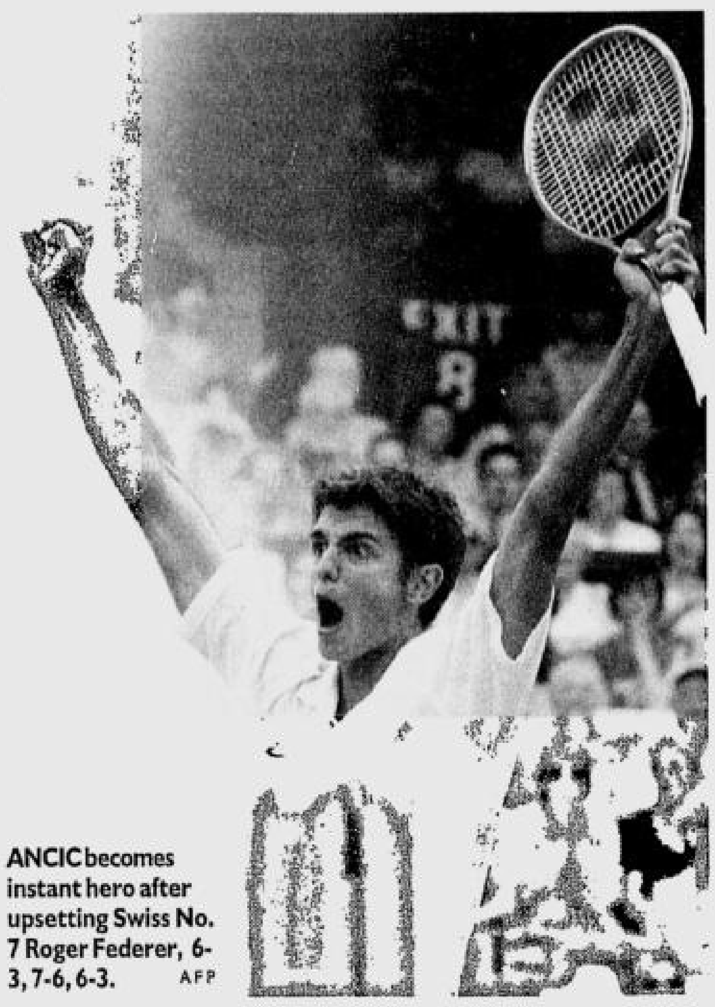
Nani Epondulan, last year's NCAA most valuable player, proved to be the biggest thorn on the Eagles' side as he sprayed 24 points, while veteran Peter Naron ably supported him with 21 points.

The Amigos thus exacted revenge against the Eagles, who handed them a 97-87 beating on June 18 in Davao City.

Since then, the Amigos of coach Vic Ycasiano have rebounded by downing the RCPI Negros Slashers (110-102) and the Cebuana Lhuillier Gems (100-94), respectively.

The Slashers and the Gems, both toting 1-3 cards, are playing at presstime.

A punching incident involving the Eagles' Bong Marata and the Amigos' Ricky Calimag marred the tightly fought game. Marata hit and bloodied Calimag's eyebrow with 4 minutes and 38 seconds to go in the third quarter. Both players were thrown out.


ANCIC becomes instant hero after upsetting Swiss No. 7 Roger Federer, 6-3, 7-6, 6-3. AFP

He talks like Goran but he's not Goran

WIMBLEDON—He talks like Goran, looks like Goran and plays like Goran.

Goran Ivanisevic may not be back to defend his Wimbledon title, but young protege Mario Ancic is doing a pretty good imitation so far.

In the first Grand Slam match of his career, the 18-year-old Croatian qualifier stunned seventh-seeded Roger Federer 6-3, 7-6 (2), 6-3 on Tuesday–on Center Court no less–in the biggest upset of the championships so far.

With Ivanisevic back home recovering from shoulder surgery, the 154th-ranked Ancic played the match of his life on the biggest stage in tennis.

"I had nothing to lose," Ancic said, in a deep voice eerily similar to Ivanisevic's. "I knew I can play, I'm young. I believe in myself, I just went out and tried to play. I cannot feel better I think."

In another upset, 71st-ranked Flavio Saretta of Brazil marked his Wimbledon debut by outlasting Australian Open champion Thomas Johansson, the eighth seed, 6-7 (2), 6-4, 7-6 (4), 3-6, 12-10.

Top-seeded Lleyton Hewitt and No. 4 Tim Henman had impressive straight set-victories, while defending women's champ and top-seeded Venus Williams, No. 4 Monica Seles, No. 5 Kim Clijsters and No. 6 Justine Henin also advanced to the second round. *AP*

Spring leads Espiritu Cup cagefest entries

NO less than seven teams, led by national interclub champion Spring Cooking Oil, have signified their intention to vie for honors in the 4th Danny Espiritu Cup basketball tournament starting on July 19 at the Makati Coliseum.

Aside from Spring, which is also the defending champion, the other teams are NBL Open titlist Wangs Ball Club, AFP Olympics winner Philippine Army, John Ryder kingpin Philippine Air Force, Jaworski Cup topnotcher Cho Pat, Hub Net Café and G.P. Maryson.

Other teams interested to join the tourney may contact Danny Espiritu at 0917-8456944 and Anthony Sulit at 0917-47779171 and 523-4936. They are also invited to attend the team managers' meeting on June 29 at 7 p.m. at the Funtastic Restaurant along Roxas Boulevard near Airport Road in Parañaque City.

The tourney is sponsored by Morning Star Tours, Mighty Tobacco Corp., J.T. Plastics, Baker's Fair, North Mountain Lumber and Spring Margarine, supported by Milo and sanctioned by the Basketball Association of the Philippines.

Fiba (International Basketball Federation) rules will apply.

GMA graces Gentleman's Cup today at Wack Wack

A HUNDRED teams composed of 300 players will see action in the First Gentleman's Cup, an 18-hole fund-raising tournament for the country's out-of-school youth, slated today Wack Wack West.

President Macapagal Arroyo and honoree First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo will hit the ceremonial balls for the event being staged for the benefit of Project Oyster.

"We would divide them into two with the first group starting play at 7 a.m. and the other at 12:30 p.m," said overall chair Antonio Cabangon Chua.

Project Oyster is an emergency employment program headed by President Macapagal Arroyo in coordination with the Philippine National Police.

The acronym Oyster means "Out-of-School Youth Serving towards Economic Recovery."

Mr. Arroyo said he readily gave his consent for the tournament upon learning that the beneficiary would be the out-of-school youth.

Among the prizes are scholarships for out-of-school youth, two business class tickets from two airlines and a brand-new car for a hole-in-one. *RL*

SMART GOLF
Smart President & CEO Napoleon L. Nazareno hits the ceremonial ball in the 3rd PNRC-Manila Chapter Golf Classic held at Intramuros recently to raise funds for Red Cross projects. Smart's partnership with PNRC started in 1998. Watching Nazareno is Manila Red Cross Chair Amado S. Bagatsing.

Magallanes topnotcher

MAGALLANES Village topped the Nokia Intervillage Central golf tournament yesterday at Wack Wack.

Magallanes, which trailed Wack Wack, 282-285, after the first round on May 20 at Manila Golf, played beyond expectations with seven players, led by team captain Noel Legaspi.

With its 584 total after 36 holes, Magallanes towed Wack Wack, which had a 288 for a 573 total, and Greenmeadows, which scored a 280 for 551, into the Nokia Grand Intervillage scheduled in November.

The tournament, organized by Videocom in 1991 to promote fellowship among golfers in Metro Manila's residential villages, is sponsored by Nokia and supported by PLDT, Alaxan, Planet Wine & More Gallery, ICTSI, Mastercard, Philippine Airlines, Menzi & Co., National Sports Grill, Pisanti, Mizuno and Boracay 357.

SPORTSWATCH

Mandaluyong hosts Ucap derby tonight

THE REMAINING derby aces owned by United Cockers Association of the Philippines (Ucap) members will be fielded tonight as the Ucap Handlers 5-Cock Derby gets under way at Mandaluyong Coliseum. To be hosted by veteran handlers Ferdinand Gaitan (Sir Vincent), Ferdie Lim (Hammer Jr.) and World Slasher Cup champion handler Bulljack Fortaleza (BL Jojit 128), this one-day event will be Mandaluyong Coliseum's last derby of the 2002 cock season. The 2002 stagfighting season is set Aug. 27-29, via the annual Richard L. Bates National Stag Derby. Meanwhile, sportsman Raymond Velayo, fresh from ruling two major cockfests (Mandaluyong International 9-Cock and Iloilo Coliseum 5-Cock Derby) was elected Ucap president on Monday. "Sabong" idol Patrick Antonio, who accepted the 2002 Ucap Cocker of the Year award, was reelected chair and hotelier Biboy Enriquez treasurer.

60 fights up at Pasay cockpit tomorrow

MORE than 60 fights await cockfight aficionados at the Pasay City Cockpit tomorrow, with the staging of a 4-cock derby to be hosted by Laguna gamefowl breeders Arnel Pimentel and Bobby Cabillion. At stake is P300,000 while required entry fee is P10,000. Inquiries may be coursed through 843-1746, 843-1890 and 816-6750. Meanwhile, the first five winners in the OCC 2-cockfest on June 30 will receive a guaranteed prize of P8,000 each while the rest will get P6,000. Registration fee is P1,100. The participant who will register a victory within six seconds will get a brand-new scooter as bonus. According to PCC managers Oscar Gonzales, Eric dela Rosa and Buthoy Olano, the 2-cock *ulutan* will be held regularly every Sunday and Tuesday.

Uy bags Shell karting crown a 2nd straight time

ALLAN Uy kept himself abreast with top rivals before making his move in the final lap to pull off his second straight victory yesterday in the fifth leg of the 2002 Shell Karting Super Series at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Uy, Team Mofo's main man, battled Tuason Racing-Team Oxygen's Mike Tuason, Futura skipper and defending champion Pepon Marave and Cebuano Jess Garcia neck and neck before breaking free from the pack to win the 15-lap Formula-A race.

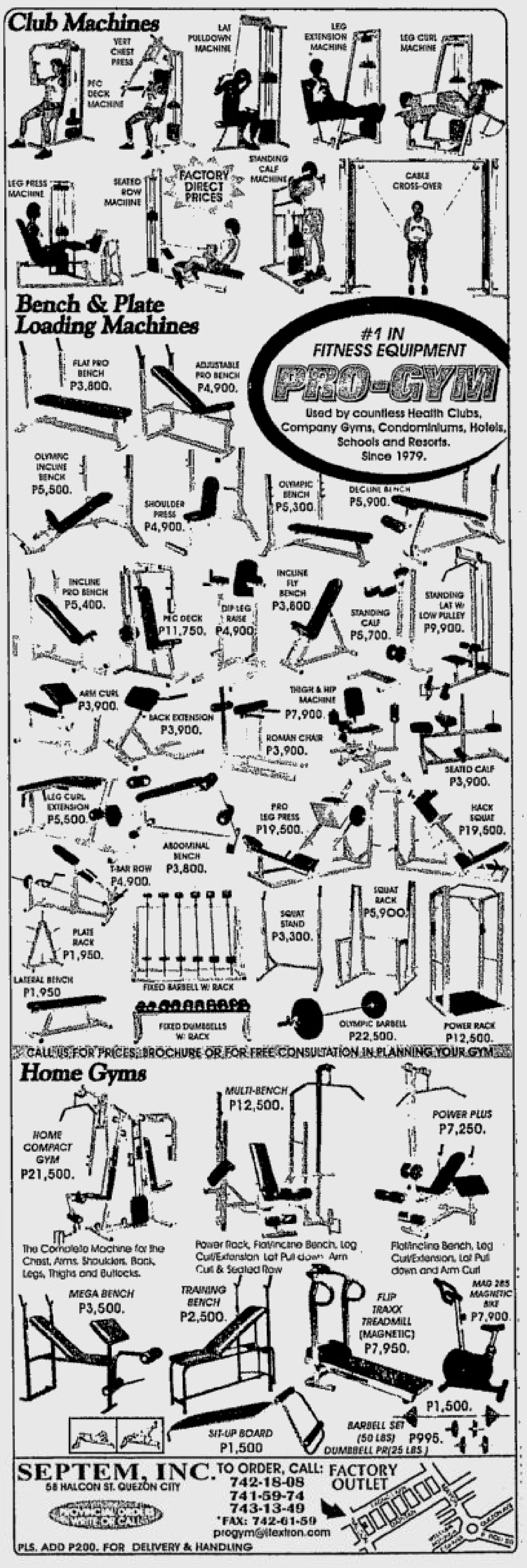
"The pressure was tremendous. It was one tough race that not only tested the drivers' skill but also their mental toughness," said Uy. "I just kept my mind focused on the race and did some defensive driving down the stretch."

He also recorded the fastest lap time of 42.447 in the sixth lap which gave him a headway in the latter part of the exciting race.

Tuason checked in just 0.405 second behind Uy for runner-up honors while Marave and Garcia wound up third and fourth, respectively, finishing less than a second behind Uy.

The event, which was originally scheduled to be held at the Carmona Circuit Philippines, was sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Casino Filipino, Bridgestone, ZED, Nokia, Coca-Cola Bottlers and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office through general manager Ver Angelo.

Demvels' Tyson Sy, Tim Gosnel and newcomer Joseph Arriola also ruled their respective events in the race sanctioned by the Automotive Association of the Philippines. *MAR*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BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1994, Nelson Mariano II garnered 52 points to win the Asian junior chess championship and earn his International Master title in Shah Alam, Malaysia. Also today in 1995, Reynaldo de Guzman notched 44 points in the tiebreak to retain his crown in the 1995 Shell National Youth Active chess tournament at the University of Mindanao gym.

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Powerful Asian body appoints RP

GO: Big boost.

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE ASIAN Amateur Athletics Association board recently appointed the Philippines' track and field body as one of the members of the elite Asian Grand Prix commission which will call the shots in the region's dollar-rich exhibition event starting next year.

Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association president Go Teng Kok said that for the next five years, the Philippines, along with Thailand, India and Sri Lanka, will run the Grand Prix which will offer even bigger cash prizes for the winners starting next year.

With that development, Go said the Philippines, through the strong support of the Philippine Sports Commission led by chair Eric Buhain, will be staging the two biggest track and field events in Asia next year after the country also won the hosting of the 2003 Asian Championships.

Like in the inaugural Grand Prix in May, the Philippines will host the final leg which, according to Go, is the climax of the event which invites only the best tracksters in Asia.

"They are really trying to boost athletics in countries which have big potential like the Philippines," said Go. "I'm very happy that the PSC is backing us up every step of the way because this is also an advancement for the whole of Philippine sports."

There will be four stops in the Grand Prix calendar starting next year, said Go, who joined the athletics chiefs of Thailand, India and Sri Lanka in the commission. Maurice Nicholas, the 4As secretary general, is the fifth member of the commission.

Go added that cash prizes would be increased from $2,000, $1,000 and $500 for gold silver and bronze winners, respectively, to $3,000, $2,000 and $1,500. Fourth placers will get $500.

The Philippines won one gold medal during the inaugural Grand Prix courtesy of Eduardo Buenavista who ruled the 3,000m steeplechase.

John Lozada won the 800m, while Elma Bulauitan, Maristella Torres and Domingo Manata captured a bronze each in the women's 100m, women's long jump and men's 400m, respectively.

Softbelles to see action in Canada

By Roy Luarca

THE WOMEN'S softball teams of Bacolod City and RTU Mandaluyong will represent the country in the Canada Cup, a two-in-one event, next month.

RTU Mandaluyong will compete in the international women's fastpitch tournament from July 13-21, while Bacolod City will take part in the international fastpitch futures tournament confined to girls 17-19 years from July 15-21. Both tournaments will be held at the Softball City and Cloverdale Park.

The Canada stint is part of the Amateur Softball Association-Philippines (Asaphil) program to provide its athletes with international exposure before the Busan Asian Games. Many of the players of the Philippine team are from RTU Mandaluyong and Bacolod City.

Asaphil officials headed by Rep. Harry Angping and executive vice president Filomeno Codiñera were inducted into office by Philippine Olympic Committee president Cito Dayrit yesterday at the Asaphil office, Rizal Memorial Sports Complex. POC chair Robert Aventajado was also present.

Other inductees were Dr. Maria Liza Bueta (VP for Luzon), Gregorio Jimena (VP for Visayas), lawyer Luis Climaco (VP for Mindanao), Mylene Co (secretary general), Olivia DySun (deputy secretary general), Gen. Antonio Santos (treasurer), Danilo Aquino (assistant treasuer), Col. Alan Arrojado (auditor) and Victor Sta. Ana (assistant auditor). They were joined by directors Antonio del Monte, Joaquin Sarabia and Marino Tancinco, Mariano Arroyo, commissioner for slo-pitch, and Liza Tingson-Rentero, commissioner for girls softball.

Named candidates to the RP women's team to the Korea Asiad slated Sept. 29-Oct. 15 were Hardee Bongas, Belen Ramirez, Marites Arahan, Meechil Cristobal, Karina Aribal, Dina Barlita, Nimpa Baral, Jenny de Jesus, Janebeb Balbuena, Gina Salvador, Nelia Lara, Lovely Parohinog, Ediltrudes Avenido, Ma. Corazon Sobere, Charlotte Begasa, Rodelio Gamazon, Aileen Abello, Eldiza Yator, Mary Joy Laquete, Gedda Valencia and Christine Dedmon.

Aspirants to the Blu-Boys squad are Rogelio Rojas, Raymundo Pagkaliwagan, Marciano Sta. Maria, Florante Acuna, Isdro Abello, Manuel Bacarisas, Joel Binarao, Manolito Binarao, Apolonio Rosales, Romeo Bumagat, Fidel Moncera, Darius Bacarisas, Orlando Binarao, Jasper Cabrera, Victorio Enriquez, Gregorio Marquez, Oscar Bradshaw, Ricky Francisco, Edgardo Alvarez, Ronilon Pagkaliwagan, Arnold Sarabia, Anthony Santos, Carrie dela Cerna, Edwin Mercado, Joy Jimenez, Anthony Cruz, Sonny Boy Acuna, Cheryl Sta. Maria, Ben Mariveles and Anthony Busca.

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▨ **Talk N Text seeks solo lead** /A18

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Remove Pandacan fuel tanks, oil firms told /A22

METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Mayors trash Jancom deal

By Leila Salaverria

THE CONTROVERSIAL $350-M Jancom garbage deal will finally be trashed after the Metro Manila Council yesterday recommended to Malacañang to junk the project, according to Metro Manila Development Authority Chair Bayani Fernando.

Fernando said that the MMDA has also received the green light to proceed with its plans to transport Metro Manila's garbage to Southern Luzon using railways.

The Metro Manila Council is composed of mayors of Metro Manila.

Fernando said the mayors decided to junk the Jancom deal by not endorsing it to Malacañang for the President's approval. After all, the local government units will be the ones that will shoulder the "exorbitant tipping fees" that the deal requires, he added.

"We will make the final draft and send this to the Office of the President as soon as possible so that the issue can be put to rest soon," Fernando said, referring to the Jancom contract.

With the mayors' recommendation, the MMDA "can at least proceed to whatever plans need to be undertaken to free us of this garbage problem," said the MMDA chief.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo earlier said she would not sign the Jancom deal, which she described as "flawed," even if the Supreme Court has ruled that the contract is legal, but did not pass judgment on the contract's merit.

Even if Jancom downgrades its technology and lowers its tipping fee, Fernando said it would be impossible for each locality to pay the contractor without the approval of its councils.

With the decision to scrap the Jancom deal, the MMDA would be placing a greater burden on the existing sanitary landfills and material reduction facilities (MRFs). This would require the MMDA to think of alternative measures to dispose of Metro Manila's trash. The metropolis generates an average of 7,000 tons of garbage daily.

Fernando said the MMDA would build an MRF for each of the 13 cities and municipalities with railroad tracks,

MAYORS/ A22

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'Stop making stupid calls,' Wycoco tells Nida witness

By Philip C. Tubeza and Christian V. Esguerra

NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday said that charges would be filed against Nida Blanca murder witness Omar Manonggoring if it were proven that he tried to extort money from Blanca's daughter Katherine "Kaye" Torres.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said he had asked Wycoco to invite Manonggoring to the NBI headquarters to shed light on allegations that he was harassing the slain actress' daughter.

Torres has denied that the witness had tried to extort money from her, Wycoco added.

"I've ordered (NBI-National Capital Region) Chief (Edmund) Arugay to summon Omar and direct him to stop making those calls," said the NBI chief. "He has no business making those stupid calls.

Torres' lawyer, former Commission on Elec-

STOP MAKING/ A22

Nayong Pilipino closure turns into legal battle

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE CONTROVERSY over the closure of the Nayong Pilipino has turned into a legal battle.

Park concessionaires yesterday filed contempt charges against executive director Charito Planas for supposedly defying a temporary restraining order and proceeding with the closure of the theme park on Tuesday.

"In defiance of the TRO, without authority of law and in gross violation of due process, Charito Planas, in order to evict the plaintiffs, closed the Nayong Pilipino," lawyer Oliver Lozano wrote in his motion.

But Pasay Judge Henrick Gingoyon denied the motion because it was "unverified and unsupported by particulars and certified true copies of documents and papers involved therein."

Lozano said the denial was based on a technicality since one of the complainants failed to attach a written verification confirming the authenticity of the statements in the complaint. He said the motion was filed again right after its denial.

Planas said she was unfazed by yet another charge. "They (Lozano and the concessionaires) just want to be in the news," she said.

The concessionaires had earlier filed graft charges against Planas before the Ombudsman for entering in an allegedly illegal agree-

NAYONG/ A22

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Cowboy Grill NOVALICHES Q.C.	PARTY-Z-POLE JAMM EDGE	NO ENTRANCE FEE ☎ 936.9757
TIA MARIA'S JUPITER ST., MAKATI CITY	ON LINE VERSE 2	GROOVE JUNE 29 MULATTO JULY 18 ☎ 890.4735
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Remove Pandacan fuel tanks, oil firms told

By Jerome Aning

"WE DON'T want any shortage in the fuel supply, nor any increase in fuel prices, (but) the issues of security and development of Pandacan is not negotiable."

Mayor Lito Atienza yesterday made this announcement as he laid down the conditions for the operation of the Pandacan oil facility, which only has five days to go before City Hall shuts it down.

Atienza said petroleum companies operating at the oil facility must first dismantle the fuel tanks there if they hope to break the impasse in negotiations with the city government.

"They have to immediately start decommissioning and dismantling the fuel storage tanks containing highly flammable substances, particularly those in the middle of or beside the communities in Pandacan and Sta. Ana," he said.

He explained that the tanks pose the most potent threat to residents there.

Atienza reiterated that if the oil firms do not take "concrete action" by July 1, he would be left with no choice but to enforce the law and shut down the facility.

In a radio interview, Atienza also scoffed at the plan of some oil firms to bring the issue to the court.

He said such a plan would just cause endless debate, to the detriment of residents there who lead high-risk lives because of their proximity to the facility.

Atienza said he also does not believe a court would interfere in the city's development plans.

The mayor also rejected a request from the oil firms that they be given another six months to safely shut down their operations at the facility.

Aside from decommissioning the tanks, the oil firms must also clarify details of other measures they hope to bring up with the city government, Atienza said.

One such detail, he said, is the setting up of a temporary common distribution area and a security buffer zone.

The dismantling of the tanks, Atienza said, would be interpreted by City Hall as "a sign of good faith that there would be substantial compliance."

If the details are included in the MOU.and if the oil firms act immediately, then he said he would submit the agreement to the City Council for approval.

If the councilors find the MOU terms acceptable, Atienza explained, any amendments to the law (that shuts down the terminal) "would be predicated on the compliance of the oil firms with the terms."

"It is not enough that (the oil firms) communicate their willingness to satisfactorily address these concerns, they would have to show concrete action," Atienza said in a statement.

Last November, the Council passed a law that would effectively shut down the depot by converting the site from an industrial to a commercial zone.

The council explained that officials of the city police and fire departments have admitted that they are ill-equipped and undermanned to deal with a big fire at the facility or defend it from a terrorist strike.

The oil firms, however, countered that the depot is safe and that relocation is not feasible.

Authorities torch shabu worth ₱494M

By Christian V. Esguerra

AUTHORITIES yesterday burned an estimated P494 million worth of illegal drugs in Muntinlupa City to mark the "International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking."

A bulk of the 247 kilos of methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu incinerated at the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in Alabang was part of the cache seized from Sandra Lim during a buy-bust operation in Pasay City in December 2000.

Early last month, a Pasay court sheriff discovered that more than seven kilos of the shabu seized in the Pasay raid were missing at the evidence vault of the National Bureau of Investigation.

Director Reynaldo Wycoco yesterday said the NBI would "arrest in the next few days" the person behind the disappearance of the shabu.

"The result of the investigation was good," he told reporters. "We'll find the person in a few days."

Wycoco later allowed the three to return to work, but not to the posts they had vacated.

Wycoco, along with Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, Muntinlupa Rep. Ruffy Biazon, city Vice Mayor Jo-Jason Alcaraz, Bernardo Lastimoso of the Dangerous Drugs Board, and members of the diplomatic corps, witnessed yesterday's incineration of the illegal drugs.

Branch 231 of the Pasay Regional Trial Court and other Metro Manila RTCs, ordered the destruction of the drug cache.

Drug experts examined the shabu prior to the burning to determine their authenticity.

MMDA, Metro execs lock arms to solve traffic mess

By Leila Salaverria

THE METRO Manila Development Authority and the heads of local government units have agreed to join forces to solve the burgeoning traffic problem.

In a meeting held yesterday, MMDA chair Bayani Fernando and Metro Manila mayors have drawn up specific areas of responsibility in directing traffic to avoid confusion, said MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Ernesto Camarillo.

"The areas of responsibility of local government units and the MMDA will be defined specifically and delineated," Camarillo said in an interview.

For example, he said, a particular avenue or area must only be under either the MMDA or the local police, and not both. This way, he said, an overabundance of officers manning one area will be avoided.

"(There were times when) there were too many officers in one area, while nobody would be directing traffic in another area," Camarillo said.

He also said those assigned to a particular area would not be allowed to issue tickets for traffic violations committed in another area.

He said the mayors and the MMDA would decide which areas would be taken over by what unit.

Video pirates beware, Revilla is new VRB chief

By Leah Salterio

"I'LL wipe them out!"

This was action star Bong Revilla Jr.'s stern warning to video pirates after he took his oath of office yesterday as the newly appointed chair of the Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB).

Revilla, who was sworn in by President Macapagal Arroyo at the Heroes Hall in Malacañang, pledged to stamp out piracy in all forms.

Like most of his film roles, which require him to get rid of the bad guys, Revilla vowed to go after piracy syndicates which have been crippling the local entertainment industry.

"There will be no compromise," said Revilla, son of Sen. Ramon Revilla Sr. "I'll use police power to wipe them out. I'll show them that the VRB has that kind of strength."

People will see him in action "when I conduct surprise raids on places where piracy is rampant."

Revilla's appointment reportedly sent video pirates scampering to get rid of their bogus merchandise. In Quiapo yesterday, fake discs and tapes were reportedly sold at half the price.

Revilla, who is a presidential appointee, said he accepted the position because he wants to help the ailing film industry. He said he has the full support of Ms Macapagal-Arroyo.

His appointment came at a time when he is out of the political limelight. He served as vice governor of Cavite and was later elected governor.

In last year's elections, he lost the gubernatorial seat to Ayong Maliksi.

"I was already leading a normal life, but with this job, I guess I'll be needing security again," Revilla said.

The action star is aware that a number of people do not approve of his recent appointment to the VRB post.

"Some may underestimate me or they might even raise their eyebrows and question what I can really do," he said. "They can say anything they want. I didn't accept this job to please anyone. I just want to help the industry so I'll do my best."

RAMON "Bong" Revilla Jr. (middle) is shown being sworn in by President Macapagal-Arroyo. Revilla's wife Lani Mercado stands by her man on the right. EDWIN BACASMAS

Revilla knows that piracy cannot be abolished overnight. However, he is optimistic that by the end of the year, he would have cut down video piracy by at least 50 percent.

"This job is no joke," Revilla said. "We need to make calculated moves. We cannot just attack. I know there will be tough times ahead, but I'm willing to sacrifice for the industry."

Given a chance, Revilla wants to have a secret dialogue with big-time financiers of pirated goods, who allegedly include Muslim traders, the military and even some politicians.

He also plans to initiate fund-raising projects for the VRB.

The 35-year-old actor revealed that his wife, Lani Mercado, didn't want him to accept the job. His dad was also against it. A number of people also discouraged him. But Revilla is ready for the formidable task ahead, and even the dangers that come with the job.

"I've always been a risk-taker," he said. "I'm ready for this. Are they (pirates) ready for me?"

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Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601, 2607 and other related provisions of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, there will be a Public Auction Sale to be conducted at PORT OF CEBU on July 4, 2002 at 10:00 a.m. of the hereunder articles in lots. Said goods shall be available for public viewing on July 1 to 3, 2002. For further inquiry, please contact the following telephone number 032-2561690/Customs Wharfinger, Tel. No. 4190543.

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2)	1 x 40 Container No. LMCU928020-8 Various used Truck Replacement Parts	W. Westley International Trading	P 186,954.88 AP No. 09-2000
3)	1x20 Container No. ICSU490890-3 - Various used Appliances & Household Goods	Ms. Soledad Fasiman	P 90,323.20 ONDA April 3, 2002
4)	1x20 Container No. APLS296188 Various used Empty Cylinders	Cebu Fortune Gas	P 442,138.32 ONDA April 3, 2002
5)	1x40 Container No. APLU 993623 Various used Household Appliances	Garam Philippines, Corp.	P 91,276.16 AP No. 13-2000
6)	1x40 Container No. GSTU881422 5 804 sets of used Electrical Appliances	Garam Philippines, Corp.	P 101,510.40 AP No. 14-2000
7)	1x40 Container No. EISU116195-1 44 bundles Lawaan Lumber of various sizes	Luzon Rattan, Inc.	P 98,383.52 ONDA April 3, 2002
8)	1x40 Container No. EMCU109381-2 44 bundles, Lawaan Lumber of various sizes	Luzon Rattan, Inc.	P 100,949.12 ONDA April 3, 2002
9)	1x40 Container No. EMCU 910566-9 Used Truck Replacement Parts	Westley International Trading	P 124,299.52 CSI No. 01-2000
10)	1x40 Container No. APMU451580-4 – 21 Pallets Marble Tiles Sizes: 10x20 cm, 30x30 cm, 40x40 cm.	Pearlstone, Inc.	P 82,136.96 ONDA April 3, 2002
11)	1x40 Container No. NOLU 4634817 822 PCS. Various used refrigerators, TV Sets & VHS/VCR Made in Korea	Garam, Philippines, Inc.	P 339,909.76 AP No. 11-2000
12)	1x20 Container No. TPHU 637697-9 – Various used Truck Replacement parts.	DCT Export/Import	P 115,024.64 ONDA April 3, 2002
13)	416 bags of Premium Rice (Prince) ex M/V "Genaro", under litigation (subject of CSI No. 01-2002) - P955.00 per bag		P 254,259.20
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Port of Cebu June 24, 2002.

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(PDI - June 27 2002)

'Stop making stupid calls . . .

From page A21

tions chief Harriet Demetriou, earlier wrote Wycoco to complain that he has been calling Torres on the phone after he was introduced to her on June 11.

"Much to my client's dismay, this Omar has been incessantly calling my client's residence and demanding monetary assistance in exchange for supposed valuable information," Demetriou said.

Manonggoring allegedly made at least four calls to Torres' residence.

But Wycoco said that Manonggoring apparently only implied during his conversations with Torres that he needed money. The witness did not explicitly ask for funds, Wycoco added.

"He hinted that he was having financial problems," he said. "She (Torres) said he was not extorting money."

Wycoco said that Torres was also not interested in pursuing charges against Manonggoring.

The NBI took custody of the witness after he offered some information that might be able to help solve the Blanca murder.

Wycoco said Manonggoring does not stay at the NBI Headquarters compound in Manila but NBI agents are in constant touch with him. He said the bureau is still evaluating if the information the witness provided, which gave a new lead in the case, was valid.

Demetriou also asked Wycoco to explain reports of a possible connection between the Jose Velarde account supposedly owned by Joseph Estrada and the killing of Blanca in San Juan last year.

"We're looking into (the reports) because they usually turn up in (conversations in) coffee shops and in text messages," he said. "But I would like to clarify that the reports did not come from the NBI because people might think that we're politicking here."

Describing the Jose Velarde account angle as "minor," Wycoco said the NBI is still focusing on Blanca's property as the primary motive behind her killing.

He added that his men are still assessing the credibility of the new witness to determine if he could be of help in solving the murder. The witness volunteered information to the NBI as early as last week, he said.

"We have many circumstantial evidence," he said. "What we need is a major witness, a major (piece of) evidence."

Mayors trash Jancom . . .

From page A21

and would extend it to the landfills that would be constructed a little distance from the tracks.

"By reach of its economy, we can now bring the garbage farther from the metropolis," he said.

Fernando yesterday met with Makati mayor Jejomar Binay, Navotas mayor Toby Tiangco, Malabon mayor Amado Vicencio, Taguig mayor Freddie Tinga, Pateros mayor Rosendo Capco, Pasig mayor Soledad Eusebio, Las Piñas mayor Nene Aguilar, Manila mayor Lito Atienza and Muntinlupa mayor Jaime Fresnedi.

On Dec. 19, 1997, Jancom Environmental Corporation signed a $350-M management contract with former MMDA chair Prospero Oreta, Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Victor Ramos and Malacañang's Cabinet Officer for Regional Development-NVR Dionisio de la Serna.

But then President Fidel Ramos did not sign the contract because Jancom supposedly failed to comply with certain conditions.

Former President Joseph Estrada refused to pursue the contract because of the passage of the Clean Air Act, which bans incinerators. The use of incinerators is a component in the Jancom deal.

Its tipping fee of $35 per ton of garbage has also been assailed for being exorbitant.

Jancom then offered to lower its tipping fee to about $19 and scrap the incinerator component of the deal.

Nayong Pilipino closure . . .

From page A21

ment with the Manila International Airport Authority to close the Nayong Pilipino.

In yesterday's motion, Lozano argued that Planas defied a TRO issued on Friday by Gingoyon barring the eviction of the concessionaires in connection with the park's closure last Tuesday.

The closure allegedly amounted to the "constructive eviction" of the concessionaires and "totally deprived them of their business without due process."

10 nabbed in AFPSLAI loan scam

By Agnes E. Donato

QUEZON City police arrested 10 persons, including a policeman and two former Army non-commissioned officers, for falsifying documents to secure police and military loans.

Arrested were former Sgt. Arturo Aneceto, 44, former Corporal Daniel Bruno, 38, PO3 Eduardo Rosales, 39, assigned at the directorate office of the Northern Police District, Godofredo Paulete, 49, director of National Funeral Homes, Ma. Victoria de Castro, 32, Jovy Quiban, 30, Roger Pameza, 29, Manuel Dizon, 40, Wilfredo Malapitan, 32, and Wilfredo Alsate, 43.

Falsification of public documents and other charges will be filed against the suspects, police said.

Investigators said Aneceto, Bruno and Alsate were arrested at around noon on Monday, after personnel of Air Material Wings Saving and Loans Association Inc. (AMWSLA) tipped off the suspects to the police.

Investigators learned that when Bruno placed a loan with the AMWSLA, he attached his picture to an information sheet bearing the name of another officer.

Bruno reportedly received on Tuesday a check worth P206,000 from the AMWSLA. But the loan institution double-checked Bruno's name and picture in the list of Philippine Army personnel, and informed the police as soon as it was able to confirm the irregularity.

The other seven suspects were arrested in an entrapment set up by members of the Central Police District's criminal investigation unit about 9:45 p.m. on Monday in Cubao, Quezon City.

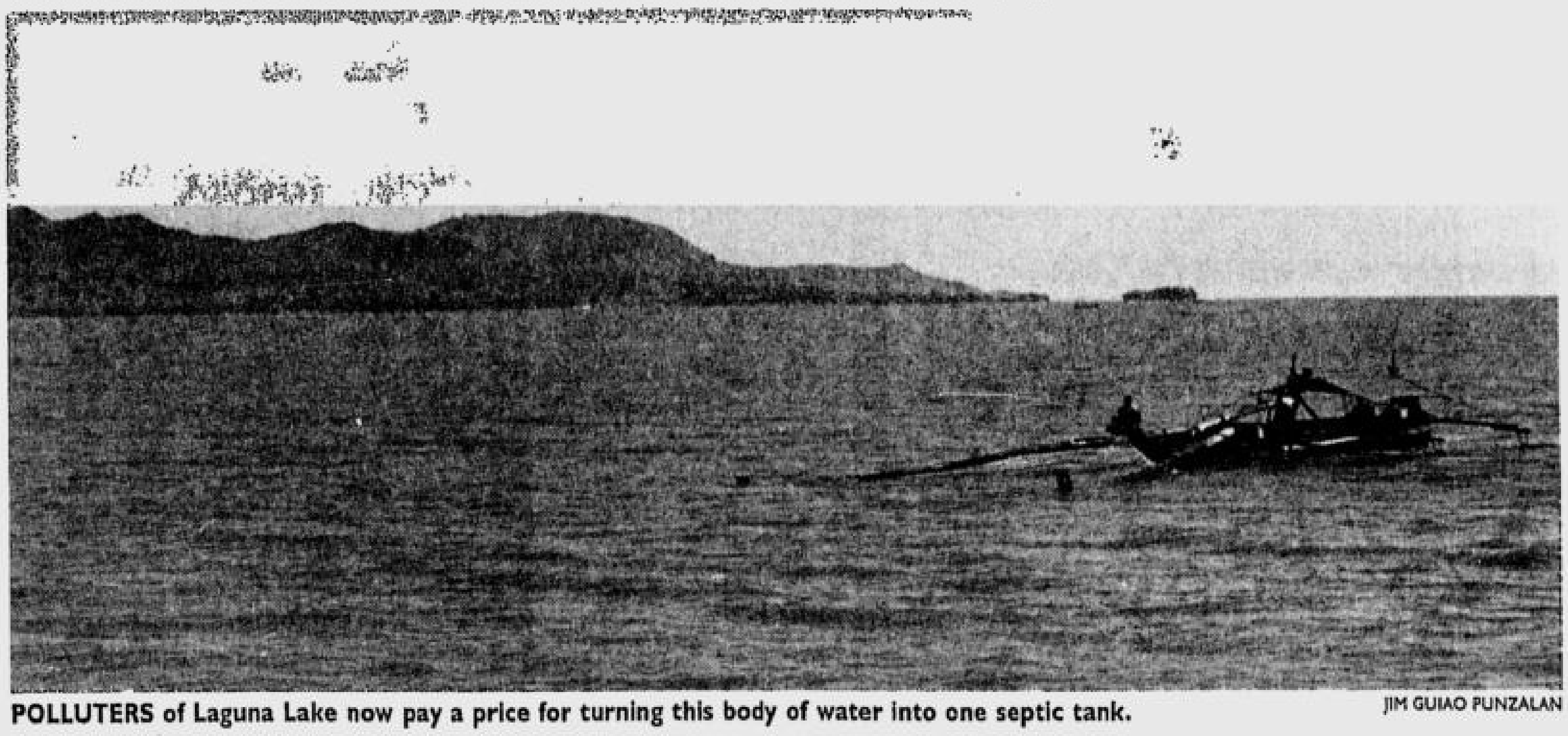
According to AFPSLAI officials, many policemen, including high-ranking officials, have lodged complaints that they were getting huge pay cuts in their salaries for AFPSLAI loans they never made.

Police seized from the seven suspects a white L-300 van (XCH 102).

Laguna Lake is one septic tank

By Jerry Esplanada

(First of two parts)



POLLUTERS of Laguna Lake now pay a price for turning this body of water into one septic tank.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

MY SAN Biscuits, Foremost Farms and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. have at least two things in common.

All three business firms are located in the Laguna de Ba'i basin. They are also in the Laguna Lake Development Authority's list of top EUF-paying companies.

EUF stands for "Environmental User Fee" which is paid by a business entity for every unit of pollution that it discharges into the 90,000-hectare lake or any of its 24 tributaries.

M.Y. San Biscuits in Cainta, Rizal and Foremost Farms in Pililia town paid at least P4.2 million and P3.4 million in EUFs, while Pilipinas Shell forked out P1.2 million in EUFs, according to officials of LLDA, an agency attached to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The EUF is a market-based instrument that applies the "polluters pay" principle, prompting lake-polluting companies to reduce and abate water pollution while instituting remedial measures like installing sewage treatment facilities.

Other companies charged with EUFs (for the 1999-2001 period) included the following: General Milling Corp. in Pasig City, P839,991; Goldilocks Bakeshop in Sta. Mesa, Manila, P700,157; Chow King Food Corp. in Muntinlupa City, P483,361; Mayleen Paper Inc. in Baesa, Quezon City, P473,995; Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc. in San Pedro, Laguna, P428,070; Container Corp. of the Philippines in Quezon City, P416,884; Philips Foods Corp. in Pasay City, P380,068; Penn Phil. Exports Inc. in Biñan, Laguna, P351,002; and Red Ribbon Bakeshop in Libis, Quezon City, P319,152.

Flagship program

Introduced in 1997, the EUF is one of the flagship programs in LLDA's environmental management campaign. The system will soon apply to more than 1,600 pollution cases being handled by the agency's legal division.

The Lucio Tan-owned Foremost Farms, said to be the biggest piggery in Asia, has installed a sewage treatment facility so "its EUF is very likely to decrease," said LLDA chief legal counsel Ma. Teresa Oledan. She also noted that "a business establishment's EUF goes down when it starts complying with environmental standards."

EUF collections during the past five years have totaled P60 million, but collections are going down, according to Oledan.

"We foresaw that one," she said. "In our trend analysis, collections should decrease after the third year. Otherwise, the EUF program is not effective."

Just for show

The EUF scheme now covers more than 700 of the 8,000-plus industrial and commercial establishments as well as housing subdivisions and condominiums in the region.

But there is one minor problem: Some sewage treatment plants put up by business firms have not been operational, according to Oledan.

"In short, they're just for show," she said.

But Oledan claimed that the system is working.

"Proof of this is the lake water quality which according to our latest monitoring showed a significant reduction in BOD (biochemical oxygen demand which causes pollution) loading."

Lake water quality has been monitored by the LLDA since the early 1970s. Monthly readings are now being made in five lake stations.

With 222 firms monitored by LLDA in 1997, the BOD load stood at 5,402.5 metric tons. In 1999, the load went down to 1,790 mt although the number of firms being monitored increased to 429.

Last year, a total of 738 companies were included in the monitoring system—LLDA has only four monitoring teams composed of two engineers or inspectors each.

The manpower problem notwithstanding, the lake's BOD load decreased further to 1,686.5 mt.

"In 1996, the year before the program launching, industrial pollution was something like 40 percent of the lake's total pollution level. It's been reduced to 27-28 percent," Oledan disclosed.

The good news is the lake has maintained its Class C status, which makes its water suitable for fish culture and industrial use, said LLDA general manager Calixto Cataquiz in the LLDA publication The Living Lake.

Class A is water suitable for domestic water supply, Class B for contact sports while Class D is for irrigation.

Septic tank

But there's bad news: Domestic waste discharged into the lake has gone up from 35 percent to 65 percent of the lake's total pollution level.

The LLDA has the EUF for industries, but it cannot impose the same for households in the Laguna de Ba'i region, composed of 28 towns and two cities in Laguna, 13 towns and one city in Rizal, two municipalities in Batangas, three towns and one city in Cavite, and one town in Quezon, in addition to two towns and seven cities in Metro Manila.

"It's a direct discharge of domestic waste, making Laguna de Ba'i one big septic tank just like Manila Bay," Oledan said. "We'll continue coordinating with local government units which, according to the Local Government Code, are tasked with domestic waste management."

The EUF program has made a "marked improvement in the control of industrial waste in the lake," Cataquiz pointed out.

Other programs will be in place this year as the LLDA intensifies its drive against lake pollution, including the "installation of more wastewater treatment facilities, continuous information dissemination campaign, and harnessing the agency's Environmental Army to full capacity as guardians of the lake and its tributaries."

According to Cataquiz, "this army of volunteers will not only serve as extension arms of various government agencies mandated to protect the environment, but also serve as the core group of a network of environmental watchdogs ready to report all incidents of environmental pollution and degradation."

(To be concluded)

No justice from Perez, says Korina housemaid

By Leila Salaverria

THE FORMER housemaid of ABS-CBN broadcaster Korina Sanchez yesterday said that she could no longer obtain justice from Justice Secretary Hernando Perez on her cases, which are now pending review with the Department of Justice.

In a motion filed yesterday with the DOJ, Bernardita Inocencio asked Perez to inhibit himself from deciding on the criminal cases filed against ABS-CBN broadcaster Korina Sanchez because his son is one of Sanchez's lawyers.

Inocencio's lawyer Melancio Maurico Jr. filed the motion appealing to Perez to abstain from deciding on Inocencio's cases against Sanchez, which are now pending review with the DOJ.

Inocencio also appealed the state prosecutors' decision to dismiss her charges against the broadcaster.

"With utmost due respect, Complainant believes, rightly or wrongly, that she could no longer obtain justice from Secretary Perez on this appeal, that he could no longer perform his duties with the cold neutrality of an impartial judge, considering that one of his sons happens to be actively lawyering for the Respondent," Mauricio said in his motion.

He also said that Perez's inhibition would be for the best because whatever the outcome of the appeal, the secretary's hands will be tied. "Consequently, this is a case of damned if you do, damned if you don't," he said.

Inocencio's lawyer also lamented that the DOJ is moving at a snail's pace when it came to their case.

JOB-SEEKERS flock to Manila during the job fair of Drug Check Philippines, Inc. in the city.

Jobs to fight drugs

THE CREATION of jobs in Manila is an important component in establishing an image of stability and growth," according to Drug Check Philippines Inc. spokesperson Mylon Villasante.

Throwing its support behind Manila Mayor Lito Atienza's pet project "Buhayin Ang Manila," Drug Check held a whole-day job fair on June 15 at Barangay 805 in San Andres Bukid.

Villasante said Drug Check vows to conduct more of the same endeavors to assist in the fight against drug addiction by creating jobs.

More than 60 of the nation's leading commercial companies participated in the job fair by sending their respective HR representatives.

Barangay 805 Chair Bobot Dimaano hosted the affair, which was also attended by Manila Councilors Mitch Cuna, Robert Ortega, Ric Ibay and Boy Isip.

Atienza delivered a short message and thanked participating companies in giving Manileños a chance to be gainfully employed.

Ranjo, 76

RETIRED Court Administrator Juanito C. Ranjo, of Piddig, Ilocos Norte, died on June 23 in Quezon City. He was 76.

He is survived by his wife Priscila; children, Gert and Rolly, Jun and Norma, Alex and Liza, and Rocky and Myra; and grandchildren.

His body lies at the Funeraria Paz, Chapel B9, on Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. A Mass will be held tomorrow at 8 p.m.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 29, at 10 a.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

METROBRIEFS

Gunned down in Novaliches

POLICE shot dead Rommel Escano for running amuck and mauling two bystanders in Quezon City Monday night. Escano, 33, of Barangay Gulod, Novaliches, Quezon City, was armed with a handgun when he went on a rampage on Quirino Highway corner Nitang Street, Novaliches, at around 10:50 p.m., police said. Escano allegedly pistol-whipped Ruel Batican, 27, and Rolando Hugo, 39, both of Oroquieta Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila, police said. Batican, a member of the Philippine Marines, and Hugo, a security guard, were waiting for a ride when they were attacked. Central Police District Station 4 lawmen responded to the alarm and called on Escano to surrender. But the suspect opened fire on the policemen, prompting the latter to fire back, killing the victim. *Alcuin Papa*

Burned in Caloocan City.

TERMINATED employees of a Caloocan City bus company reportedly set to fire three passenger air-conditioned buses worth P2 million on Monday, police said. The three buses of Joyselle Express Bus Company, owned by a Jener Mendoza were torched at around 3:45 a.m. at the firm's garage on Zapote Road, Area D Camarin, Caloocan. Simmering differences between labor and management reportedly led to the termination of the affected employees, authorities said. Fire investigators are now searching for clues that will lead them to the arsonists. *Tina Santos*

Held up in Monumento

JAPANESE Katsunori Suzuki lost some P400,000 in cash and valuables to two holdup men in Monumento Caloocan City Saturday. Police said Suzuki, 34, a native of Okinawa and resident of Barangay Sacred Heart, Kamuning, Quezon City, was approached by the suspects at around 4:30 p.m. as he was standing in front of a drugstore in Monumento waiting for a friend who had gone to a moneychanger shop. Suzuki told police that the robbers, armed with a knife, led him to an isolated place and robbed him of a Rolex wristwatch worth P200,000, gold necklace worth P60,000, a Sony handycam worth P72,000, a Louis Vuitton bag and wallet worth P48,000 and cash worth P16,000 and 50,000 yen. *Tina Santos*

Robbed in Valenzuela

SEVEN armed men held up a David's Salon outlet in Valenzuela City and carted away some P15,000 in cash and other valuables Monday night. Police said the suspects, armed with handguns, stormed the beauty parlor on McArthur Highway Karuhatan, Valenzuela, at around 7:30 p.m. and ordered the employees and customers, including PO3 Loreto Marayan of National Capital Region's Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division, to lie face down on the floor. The suspects then took the cash earnings of the parlor as well as Marayan's 9-mm service pistol and cellular phone. *Tina Santos*

Lost in Manila

BUSINESSMAN Norvin I. Alarcon, 30, lost nearly half million pesos worth of valuables when he left his knapsack inside a taxi to buy a meal at the Jollibee branch on C.M. Recto Avenue near the corner of Oroquieta Street on Sunday. Alarcon, of M. Roxas Street, San Roque, Marikina City, told police that he asked the taxi driver to stop at the fastfood outlet so he can buy food at around 1:30 p.m. When Alarcon left the store with the food, he was shocked to see the taxi was gone. The unidentified taxi driver sped away with Alarcon's knapsack containing 400,000 yen, and P20,000 in cash, an 18k gold bracelet worth P100,000; and a 150-gram gold necklace worth P150,000, according to the Western Police District-Theft and Robbery section. The victim was able to take down the taxi's plate number. Investigators are now tracking down the taxi driver. *Philip Tubeza*

Raped in Bagong Silang

A 43-YEAR-OLD vendor was hauled to jail on Sunday for allegedly turning his 17-year-old daughter into a sex slave for the last three years in Caloocan City, police said. The teenage victim on Sunday sought the help of the city police's women's and children's section, who promptly dispatched lawmen to arrest the vendor at his residence in Bagong Silang, Caloocan. In her complaint, the victim said her father started to sexually abuse her when she was only 14 years old. The victim, the eldest of five girls, told police that her father would rape her inside their house whenever her mother was out. She said the latest incident happened on June 15. *Tina Santos*

Rescued in Mandaluyong

POLICE rescued two boys, aged 4 and 10, from their drug-crazed father, who held them hostage for more than an hour inside their house in Mandaluyong City Sunday morning. Jumar Palic, 4, and his brother Jimmy, 10, both residents of Welfareville Compound, Barangay Addition Hills, were unharmed when the lawmen plucked them from the clutches of Jaime Pornillos, who was reported to be under the influence of drugs, police said. SPO3 Guillermo Boy of the Mandaluyong Police said Pornillos held the two boys hostage from 12:45 a.m. until 2 a.m., shortly after he quarreled with his 25-year-old live-in partner Cristina Palic. When the alarm came out, Supt. Sukarno Ikbala and Chief Insp. Bienvi Calag Jr. immediately went to Welfareville Compound and began negotiating with Pornillos, who was armed with a saber and two kitchen knives. The two police officers managed to convince the suspect to release the boys after more than an hour of negotiations. *Nelson Flores*

Ambassador launches new book

FORMER Philippine Ambassador to Chile Rodolfo A. Arizala writes about people, places and events allowing for an intimate look into the past of Infanta, Quezon, in his new book, "Labong ng Kawayan (Bamboo Shoots)."

Arizala, now based in Chile, narrates in vivid details the values, foibles, traditions and heroism of Filipinos who rose to the challenges of their times.

The book was partly motivated by an innocent question that Arizala's eldest son asked when he was about six years old, "Dad, am I a Filipino?"

Arizala said it dawned on him that children of Filipino expatriates often lose their self-identity as Filipinos through no fault of theirs. "We have to find the means of preserving our sense of identity as symbolized by the bamboo tree. This book is therefore an effort to connect the young generation to their 'bamboo tree' in the face of modernization," he said.

Quezon Gov. Wilfredo L. Enverga wrote in the foreword that "Labong ng Kawayan" is a "must reading for everyone, not only for expatriates. In every individual there is that piece of root, that connecting link, which continues to draw sustenance and inspiration from one's birthplace or origin."

Other stories are reprints of Tobias Y. Enverga's short stories, personal accounts of priests including Infanta Prelature Bishop Julio X. Labayen of the Discalced Carmelite Order that has been assigned to Infanta since the 1940s.

Co-published by the Socio-Pastoral Institute in Quezon City and Metro Infanta Foundation, the book will be launched today at 7 p.m. in the community center of the Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish, Doña Juana Rodriguez Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, June 27, 2002
12th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **2 K 24:8-17**
Gospel: **Mt 7:21-29**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Not everyone who says to me: Lord! Lord! will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my heavenly Father. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not speak in your name? Did we not cast out devils and perform many miracles in your name?' Then I will tell them openly: I have never known you; away from me, you evil people!

"So, then, anyone who hears these words of mine and acts accordingly is like a wise man, who built his house on rock. The rain poured, the rivers flooded, and the wind blew and struck that house, but it did not collapse because it was built on rock. But anyone who hears these words of mine and does not act accordingly, is like a fool who built his house on sand. The rain poured, the rivers flooded, and the wind blew and struck that house; it collapsed, and what a terrible fall that was!"

When Jesus had finished this discourse, the crowds were struck by the way he taught, because he taught with authority unlike their teachers of the Law.

Commentary

The Payatas Tragedy, August, 2000. More than 200 persons died under a mountain of garbage that collapsed after several days of monsoon rains in Payatas, Quezon City. Authorities blamed the scavengers who, like fools, built their houses not just on sand but on garbage. The poor people blame the authorities in City Hall, who made the area a dumping ground after they had been relocated there, because they were forced to live with houses built not just on sand but on social injustice. Since strong rains were the immediate cause of the tragedy, the city mayor, to defend himself in court, told the people: "Sue God" God remained silent during the case. But God had spoken centuries ago: "I will tell them openly: I have never known you; away from me you evil people!" The Payatas site was closed for dumping and the people and the authorities kept praying "Lord, Lord!"

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (EVIDENCE)—Circumstantial evidence—Circumstantial evidence suffices to convict if the following requisites occur: (1) more than one circumstance is present; (2) the facts from which the inferences are derived are proven; and (3) the combination of all the circumstances produces a conviction beyond reasonable doubt. The totality of the evidence must constitute an unbroken chain showing reasonable doubt the guilt of the accused, to the exclusion of all others. To require direct eyewitness testimony when circumstantial evidence is sufficiently established would, in many cases, expose society to felons who would unreasonably set free. In the present case, the postmortem examination shows that the victim sustained multiple lacerations and abrasions plus eight stab wounds. The circumstantial evidence shows that the appellants are responsible for the killing. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Panganiban, Third Division, People V. Cuenca, G.R. No. 143819, January 29, 2002]

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5 GOLD (DOLBY)	AMELIE
6 GOLD (SDDS)	MINORITY REPORT
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	SUM OF ALL FEARS
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9	MAGKAPATID
10	FOREVERMORE

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2	TAMPISAW
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7	
8	

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3	TAMPISAW
4	DISKARTE

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2	
3	
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6	FOREVERMORE
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8 (SDDS)	MINORITY REPORT
9 (DOLBY)	SUM OF ALL FEARS

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8	DISKARTE
9	MAGKAPATID

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2	
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4	TAMPISAW
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8	FOREVERMORE

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3	RESERVE
4	FOREVERMORE
5	TAMPISAW

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1	
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2	TAMPISAW

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3 (DTS)	MINORITY REPORT

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4	SUM OF ALL FEARS

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4	SCOOBY DOO

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4	MAMASAN
5	PAGSALUHAN NATIN . . .

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3	MAMASAN

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3	MAMASAN

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3	MAMASAN
4	FOREVERMORE

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7	TAMPISAW
8	DISKARTE

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1	FOREVERMORE
2	A WALK TO REMEMBER
3	MINORITY REPORT
4	AMELIE
5	SUM OF ALL FEARS
6	DISKARTE
7	SCOOBY DOO
8	MINORITY REPORT
9	MAGKAPATID
10	TAMPISAW

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

9350749

1	AMELIE
2	A WALK TO REMEMBER
3	MAGKAPATID
4	MINORITY REPORT
5	SCOOBY DOO
6	FOREVERMORE
7	MINORITY REPORT
8	SUM OF ALL FEARS
9	FOREVERMORE
10	TAMPISAW
11	MONSTER'S BALL
12	DISKARTE

SM CITY MANILA

5239240

1	SCOOBY DOO
2	A WALK TO REMEMBER
3	AMELIE
4	MINORITY REPORT
5	SUM OF ALL FEARS
6	MINORITY REPORT
7	I THINK I'M IN LOVE
8	TAMPISAW
9	FOREVERMORE
10	MAGKAPATID
11	DISKARTE
12	FOREVERMORE

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1	MINORITY REPORT
2	A WALK TO REMEMBER
3	SCOOBY DOO
4	MINORITY REPORT
5	AMELIE
6	SUM OF ALL FEARS
7	MONSTER'S BALL
8	DISKARTE
9	FOREVERMORE
10	SUM OF ALL FEARS
11	MAGKAPATID
12	TAMPISAW

SM CITY NORTH EDSA

9299452

1	A WALK TO REMEMBER
2	MINORITY REPORT
3	MAGKAPATID
4	FOREVERMORE
5	AMELIE
6	SCOOBY DOO
7	SUM OF ALL FEARS
8	MINORITY REPORT
9	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

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8066888

1	A WALK TO REMEMBER
2	AMELIE
3	MINORITY REPORT
4	SCOOBY DOO
5	TAMPISAW
6	DISKARTE
7	FOREVERMORE
8	SUM OF ALL FEARS
9	MAGKAPATID
10	MINORITY REPORT

SM CITY CEBU

2313876

1	MINORITY REPORT
2	SUM OF ALL FEARS
3	MONSTER'S BALL
4	MAGKAPATID
5	SCOOBY DOO
6	PAGSALUHAN
7	FOREVERMORE
8	MINORITY REPORT

SM CITY ILOILO

3209422

1	DRAGONFLY
2	CLOSED
3	SCOOBY DOO
4	FOREVERMORE
5	SUM OF ALL FEARS
6	MINORITY REPORT
7	CLOSED
8	MAMASAN

SM CITY PAMPANGA

7128015

1	MINORITY REPORT
2	SCOOBY DOO
3	PANIC ROOM
4	MAGKAPATID
5	SUM OF ALL FEARS
6	FOREVERMORE

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT

8294975

1	FOREVERMORE
2	MINORITY REPORT
3	SUM OF ALL FEARS
4	SCOOBY DOO

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8820984

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN

2514302

1	MINORITY REPORT
2	TAMPISAW
3	MAGKAPATID
4	FOREVERMORE

SM CITY DAVAO

2976998

1	MINORITY REPORT
2	FOREVERMORE
3	IN THE BEDROOM
4	FRUIT IS SWELLING
5	SUM OF ALL FEARS
6	SCOOBY DOO

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6	SUM OF ALL FEARS
7	MAGKAPATID
8	ASCOOBY DOO
9	A WALK TO REMEMBER
10	AMELIE

Ermita 536 -7809- 12

1	MINORITY REPORT
2	SUM OF ALL FEARS
3	AMELIE
4	A WALK TO REMEMBER
5	FOREVERMORE
6	SCOOBY DOO
7	MINORITY REPORT

Metro East - Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	SUM OF ALL FEARS
2	MINORITY REPORT
3	SCOOBY DOO
4	FOREVERMORE
5	A WALK TO REMEMBER
6	FOREVERMORE
7	MINORITY REPORT
8	MAGKAPATID

Novaliches 935- 3229 - 30

1	MINORITY REPORT
2	MINORITY REPORT
3	SCOOBY DOO
4	MAGKAPATID
5	FOREVERMORE
6	TAMPISAW
7	A WALK TO REMEMBER
8	SUM OF ALL FEARS

Imus 471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	MINORITY REPORT
2	TAMPISAW
3	SCOOBY DOO
4	SUM OF ALL FEARS
5	FOREVERMORE
6	MAGKAPATID

Bacolod 441- 0453 / 0459

1	MINORITY REPORT
2	SCOOBY DOO
3	FOREVERMORE
4	SUM OF ALL FEARS
5	DRAGONFLY
6	MAGKAPATID

Iloilo 336- 8077 - 78

1	MINORITY REPORT
2	FOREVERMORE
3	DRAGONFLY
4	MAMASAN
5	SCOOBY DOO
6	SUM OF ALL FEARS

Star Mills- Sn. Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927 961-5318 / 5270

1	PANIC ROOM
2	SCOOBY DOO
3	MINORITY REPORT
4	FOREVERMORE
5	SUM OF ALL FEARS
6	SUM OF ALL FEARS

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- I THINK I'M IN LOVE
- MAGKAPATID

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Joey's ex cries foul

From page A26

I'd rather not drag other people's names here out of respect for my long-standing friendship with Joey and Beth. But Beth feels bad that some people whom Joey loves refuse to love his daughters Jesm and JB, too.

"In front of me, he makes it seem that my daughters are treated well, but it hurts me when my daughters come home and tell me about the verbal abuse and unfair treatment they got," Beth complains.

If love is just like a basketball game which started my friendship with Joey and Beth, and there's a referee who will shout 'foul!' and the erring player can be disqualified, then Beth would easily win the MVP award . . . Most Victimized Partner or More Vindication Please!

Close friendship

ONE of the things I enjoy most about growing up in show biz, aside from developing close friendships with the stars, is meeting interesting people who are indirectly from show biz, but not from show biz.

One guy who stands out among my many acquaintances is **Melvin Rillo**. His family owns the building where Viva Films offices are located. They also used to run Femi productions, which paved the way for sexy films.

Although Melvin looks good enough to be in the movies, he would rather finish his law studies. "Maybe I can specialize in annulment, considering that many show biz marriages break up," he said.

What about reviving Femi?

"Maybe in the near future when there's more improvement in the movie trend. For now, our connection with Viva is about as show biz as our family can get," Melvin said.

I teased him, "So have you gone out with any Viva goddess yet?" He laughed. "I'm too shy but I'm privy to all the exciting Viva-after-office-hour adventures in our building."

If only the walls could speak huh, Mr. Rillo?

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	FOREVERMORE
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	MAGKAPATID
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MINORITY REPORT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SUM OF ALL FEARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	MINORITY REPORT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	SCOOBY DOO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7(DOLBY)	A WALK TO REMEMBER
FARMERS PLAZA-1(DOLBY)	TAMPISAW
FARMERS PLAZA-2(DOLBY)	MINORITY REPORT
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	KASIBULAN / TEMPTATION NIGHT
ODEON	MINORITY REPORT
ODEON-2	DISKARTE
ROBEN	TAMPISAW
TANDEM-1	MAMASAN
TANDEM-2	MONSTER'S BALL
TIMES	COLLATERAL DAMAGE / MIMIC-2
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	TAMPISAW
REMAR	MINORITY REPORT
REMAR-2	TAMPISAW
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	FOREVERMORE
B	TAMPISAW
C	SUPER B
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	AMELIE
CINEMA-2	MINORITY REPORT
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DISKARTE
CINEMA-2	TAMPISAW
CINEMA-3	FOREVERMORE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MINORITY REPORT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	FOREVERMORE
CINEMA-6	MONSTER'S BALL
CINEMA-7	MAGKAPATID
CINEMA-8	A WALK TO REMEMBER
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MINORITY REPORT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MINORITY REPORT
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	SCOOBY DOO
CINEMA-12	SUM OF ALL FEARS
CINEMA-14	AMELIE
CINEMA-15	FOREVERMORE
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
CINEMA-2	SCOOBY DOO
CINEMA-3	SUM OF ALL FEARS
CINEMA-4	BAD COMPANY
CINEMA-5	MONSTER'S BALL
CINEMA-6	SUM OF ALL FEARS
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

RELAX & SEE A MOVIE

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS

1 MINORITY REPORT
10:20, 1:15, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00
GP

2 THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
P 13

MONDAY-FRIDAY Screening before 5 PM - Free Seating P 80 / Screenings after 5 PM - Reserved Seats P 120
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G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 THE SUM OF ALL FEARS	1 SCOOBY DOO	1 SCOOBY DOO	1 SUM OF ALL FEARS 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20	1 MINORITY REPORT
	2 SUM OF ALL FEARS			
2 MINORITY REPORT	3 MINORITY REPORT 11:40, 2:30, 5:20, 8:10, 11:00	2 MINORITY REPORT	2 MINORITY REPORT 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30, 11:20	2 SUM OF ALL FEARS
			3 AMELIE 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	3 MINORITY REPORT
3 FOREVER-MORE	4 FOREVERMORE	3 SUM OF ALL FEARS	4 MONSTER'S BALL 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 11:00	4 AMELIE
	5 AMELIE			
4 SCOOBY DOO	6 MINORITY REPORT	Onstage MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE 9:00 PM June 28 & 29	5 SCOOBY DOO [illegible]:00, 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00, 11:00	5 SCOOBY DOO
	7 A WALK TO REMEMBER			

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MINORITY REPORT - P13 12:10, 3:10, 6:10, 9:10	MONSTER'S BALL - R18 12:15, 2:40, 5:05, 7:30, 9:50	MINORITY REPORT - P13 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 10:10

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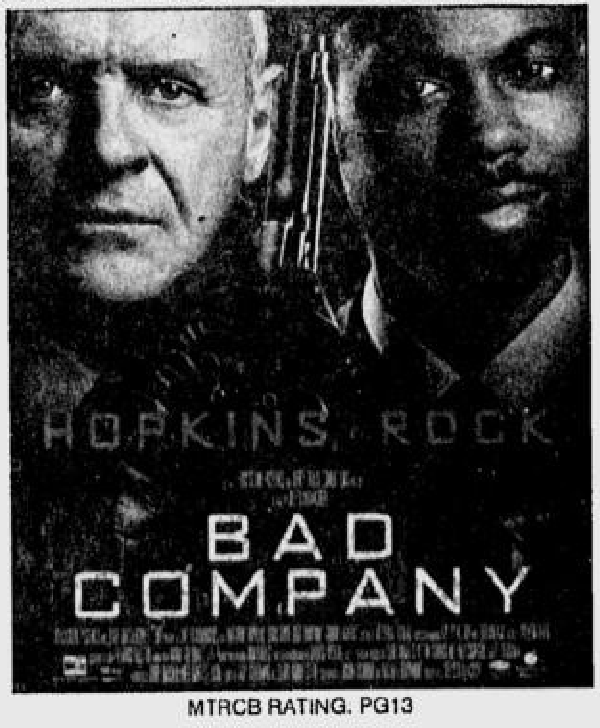

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Career singles, conventional centers and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: If the head of the terrorist group has really been killed, how come some people are still dubious?

Guest: Because the body has not yet been found.

Host: So, what do we do now, in the meantime?

Guest: I don't know about them, but I believe the military deserves all the people's allocades for defeating the group in combat.

(*Ay*, allocades!)

* * *

Host: What do you wish for your friend on his birthday today?

Guest: I wish for him more problems to come in!

(Huh?)

* * *

Host: And what about you?

Another guest: I wish you're to be and humble!

(*Ano daw?*)

* * *

Host: And you?

Third guest: *Sana maging* successful *pa rin siya kahit nagkakaedad na siya.*

(*Tenk yu, ha?!*)

* * *

Host: Are you a neat person?

Guest: Of course! If you see my room, all the items are arranged in spic and span!

(Wow, impressive!)

* * *

Host: Tell us about your new album.

Guest: It's my best ever. I'm very happy about it, especially about my career single!

(*Ay*, career single!)

* * *

Host: Where will you hold your concert in Hong Kong?

Guest: We are performing at the Hong Kong Conventional Center.

(*Ay*, Conventional!)

On Star Movies

THURSDAY, June 27 at 9 p.m., "Two If By Sea."

Friday, June 28 at 7:15 p.m., "Total Recall." At 10:45 p.m., "The Man Who Cried."

Saturday, June 29 at 7:30 p.m., "Mad About Mambo." At 9 p.m., "Shining Through."

Sunday, June 30 at 8:30 a.m., "The Perez Family." At 10:30 a.m., "The Addams Family Reunion." At 9 p.m., "The Shrink Is In."

Treats on Star World

THESE past weeks, we've found ourselves keeping our TV set tuned to the Star World Channel for rather long stretches of time. Why so? We got a copy of the cable channel's schedule and saw why: a number of its shows are quite diverting, and sometimes even substantial.

Today, for example, we could take a gander at World News at 6:30 a.m., "Caroline in the City" at 7 a.m., "Family Ties" at 8 a.m., "Third Rock from the Sun" at 8:30 p.m., "The Oprah Winfrey Show" at 9 p.m., "MacGyver" at 10 a.m., "The Drew Carey Show" at 11 a.m., "Whose Line Is It Anyway?" at 11:30 a.m., and "Ally McBeal" at 12 noon.

In the afternoon slot, there's "The Practice" at 2 p.m. At night, "The Simpsons" at 6 p.m., "Star News Asia" at 7 p.m., "Friends" at 7:30 p.m., and "NYPD Blue" at 10 p.m.—Not bad for just one channel!

New films

- "SORORITY Boys." The only way for Dave (**Barry Watson**), Adam (**Michael Rosenbaum**) and Doofer (**Harland Willaims**) to make it through college is to get free housing by pretending to be girls and rooming in one of their school's sorority houses.

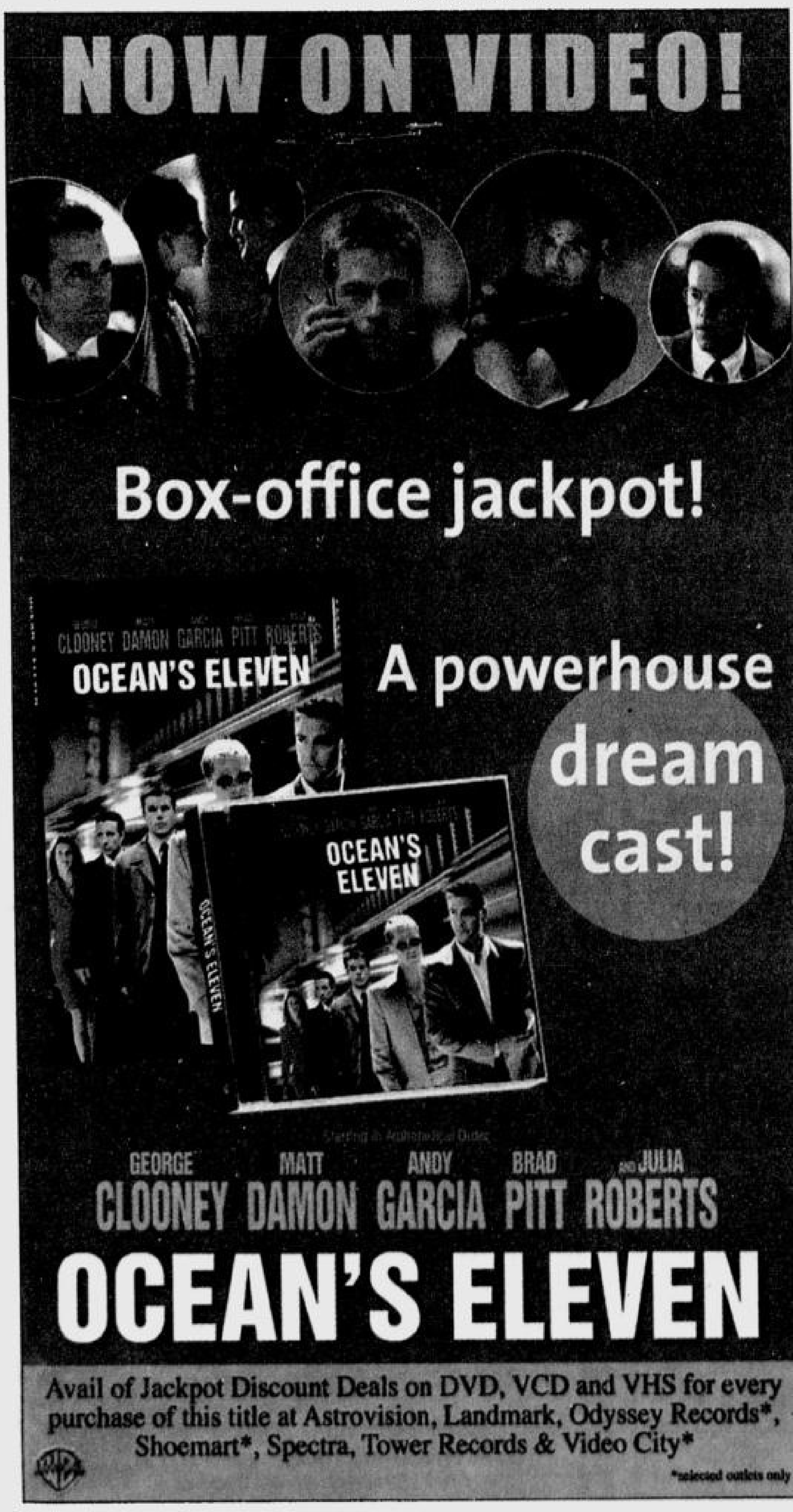
The ploy works well until Dave falls for Leah (**Melissa Sagemiller**). Also, as the boys see how the other half lives, their history of treating women badly comes back to haunt them.

Thus, "Sorority Boys" turns out to be a movie about three chauvinists who get their comeuppance when they pretend to be women. On the other hand, it also touches on women's own preconceived, incorrect notions about men. So, everybody learns a thing or two—while having a good time watching this drag comedy.

- "Bad Company." **Anthony Hopkins** plays Gaylord Oakes, a veteran CIA agent who must transform streetwise punk Jaye Hayes (**Chris Rock**) into a sophisticated and savvy spy to replace his murdered identical twin brother Kevin Pope (also played by Rock).

To make the task even more daunting, Oakes has only nine days to accomplish this "mission: impossible" before having to negotiate a sensitive nuclear weapons deal.

The film is directed by **Joel Schumacher** and produced by **Jerry Bruckheimer** and **Mike Stenson**.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Young talents reign in MTV Awards 2002

TRUE Faith's Medwin Marfil (left), Barbie Almalbis of Barbie's Cradle, Rico Blanco and guitarist Mike Elgar of Rivermaya in a rousing opening number.

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

REGINE Velasquez became a big disappointment when she lost the Best Female award to younger singer Karylle.

RAP metal group Greyhoundz in a power-charged performance.

RIVERMAYA, lead by main man Rico Blanco, is the country's representative to the 2002 MTV Southeast Asia Viewer's Choice Awards. The group won the Best Group, Best Director and Best Video awards for "Umuulan Umaaraw."

EVENT specialist Tim Yap and MTV VJ Sarah Meier present an award.

Joey's ex cries foul

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

IT'S always a delight to suddenly run into an old friend and find out that the bond you have is still very much intact. Some friendships are co-terminus with a certain stage in your life. Only the deeply rooted ones endure.

That's exactly what transpired when I touched base with **Beth Sario,** a former live-in partner of Parañaque Mayor **Joey Marquez** (although being the ex of someone so famous/infamous isn't exactly one's best credential).

Joey has two teenage daughters with Beth—**Jesm** (short for **Joey Elizabeth Sario Marquez**) and **JB** (for Joey and Beth).

I used to hang out a lot in Joey and Beth's place in San Juan during the height of Joey's PBA career. I happened to be a PBA fanatic back then, to the point that my heart got "dribbled" by one of Joey's former teammates who eventually became my hubby. But our marriage has been annulled.

I remember rooting for Joey's team with my bosom buddies **Liezl Sumilang** (now married to **Albert Martinez**) and **Arlene Muhlach**. We were so into our "Joey cheering squad" phase that we were even dressed for the part, with our matching "Marquez jackets" complete with the team's logo and Joey's #66 patch.

Joey was living in with Beth then. I saw how blissfully happy they were in spite of Joey's other "girls on the side." Beth was his "official" paramour, so that sets her apart from the rest. Joey was such an affectionate dad to Jesm and JB.

Beth and I tried to recapture the good old days. How I wish we could relive them and rewrite our story, so we could be relieved of whatever pain that we experienced in the past.

Beth sighs, "I miss the time when things were still so simple. Joey and I have so many wonderful memories. It's just sad that we had to part. I don't want to be bitter, but I can't say that we have an ideal set-up now. It's the people around him who make it hard for me and our two daughters to really penetrate into his inner circle."

Not too long ago, Beth filed charges against Joey, demanding financial support for Jesm and JB. Joey gave in, but that is not to say that things have been smooth-sailing between them.

Due to forces beyond Beth's control, she has to learn to live with the fact that her relationship with Joey will forever be strained.

JOEY'S EX/ A25

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◎ Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Are you pumped up to win?
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NTT NON-COMMITTAL

Gokongweis dangle 3-way venture

INDICATORS

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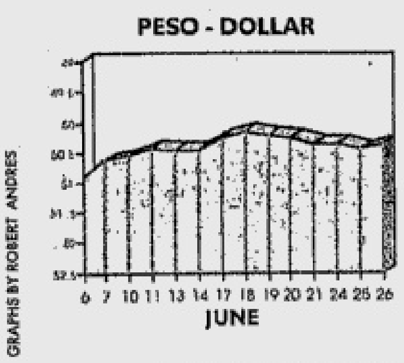


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 50.35 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 26, 2002

¥ 120.32 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 26, 2002

GOLD: $324.70/325.20

per ounce Hong Kong, June 26, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Stocks plunge to new year low

STOCKS plunged over 2 percent yesterday to end at a new low for the year, undermined by concerns about the local telecom sector, doubts about its budgetary strength and weakening US markets, traders said.

STOCKS/ B2

By Doris C. Dumlao

HONG KONG'S First Pacific Co. Ltd. and the group of tycoon John Gokongwei Jr. are reportedly coaxing Japan's Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. to join a "three-way partnership" that will acquire a controlling stake in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

Sources close to PLDT chief executive Manuel Pangilinan stressed, however, that there was "no way" that NTT would enter into a partnership with the Gokongweis.

Hong Kong's First Pacific and the Gokongwei group have agreed to form a joint venture that will hold First Pacific's 24.47-percent stake in PLDT—the single biggest—and the 50.4-percent stake held by its Philippine unit, Metro Pacific Corp., in Bonifacio Land Corp.

Gokongwei offered to pay as much as $600 million to control two-thirds of this joint venture.

Persons close to Gokongwei said the tycoon and First Pacific were trying to convince NTT to "join the joint venture."

NTT, which holds 15 percent of PLDT, is the pivotal player in the struggle between First Pacific and the PLDT management, as it has the right of first refusal should First Pacific sell its PLDT stake to the Gokongwei family.

PLDT management—led by Pangilinan, who also serves as First Pacific executive chair—is opposed to the deal and is trying to garner NTT's support.

NTT said it was retaining its right to veto the First Pacific-Gokongwei deal, contrary to earlier reports that it had agreed to waive this right.

"I don't think NTT is waiving its right. It is keeping its rights. NTT is maintaining its stance. Somebody is just creating these stories," NTT's representative to the PLDT board, Taketo Suzuki, said.

"The strategy is different now," the Gokongwei source told the INQUIRER. "Either (NTT) clings on to what it has or put money (in PLDT)."

He added that the Gokongweis were confident a deal could be concluded in the third quarter of the year.

First Pacific executive vice president Rebecca Brown said in a statement issued late on Tuesday that First Pacific was still in talks with NTT.

"Unless agreed to by NTT and First Pacific, there may be no transfer of any PLDT and Philippine Telecommunications Investment Corp. shares, which are subject to the shareholders' agreement, to a strategic investor at any time prior to March 24, 2003," Brown said.

"First Pacific will continue its constructive dialogue with NTT, with a view toward achieving a mutually satisfactory resolution of the issues that the proposed transaction raise for NTT and First Pacific as current and future shareholder partners in PLDT."

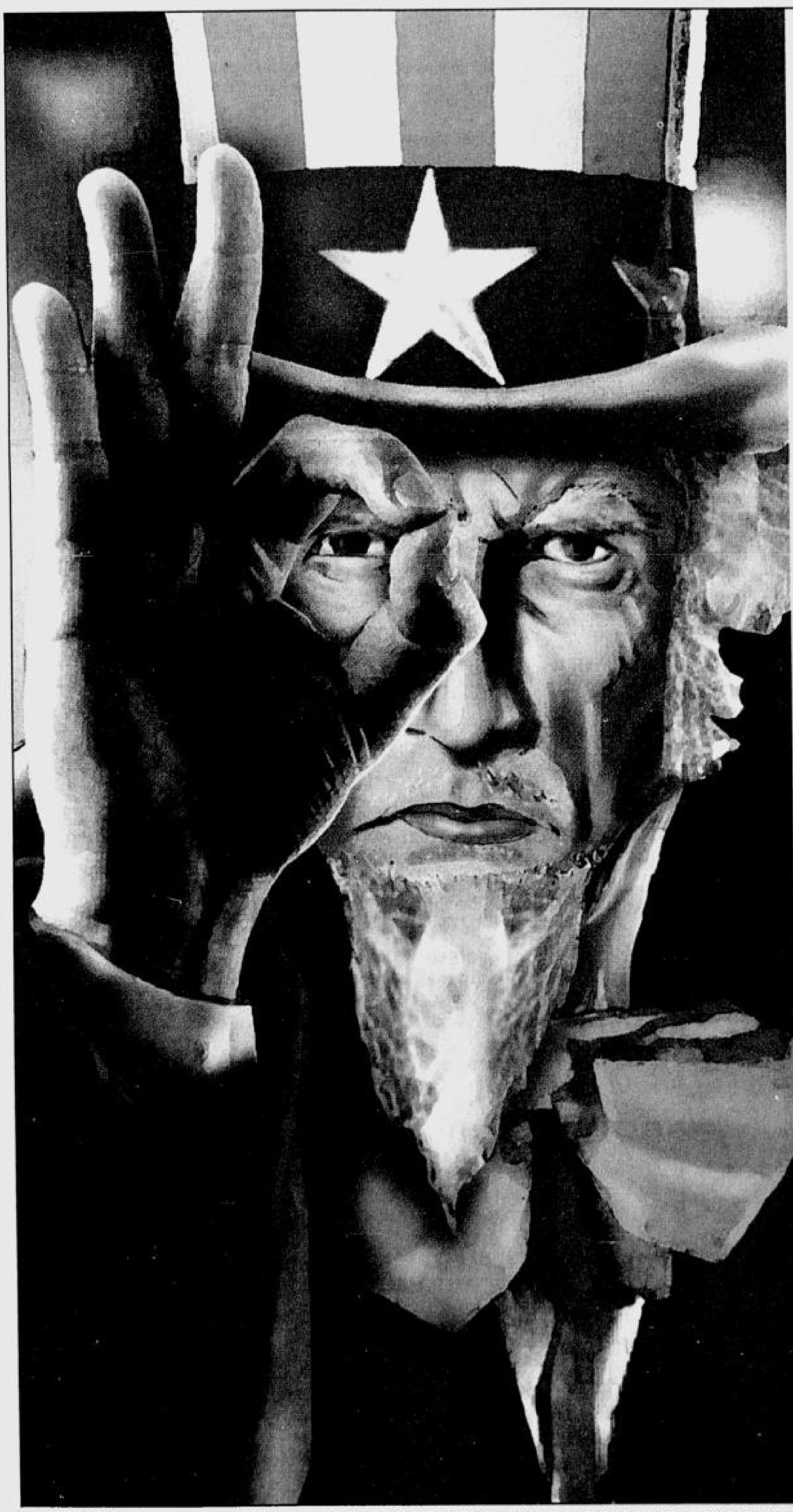
PTIC, a privately held firm, holds 15.4 percent of PLDT.

It was not clear how much of PTIC is held by First Pacific, whose officials were not immediately available for comment.

PLDT sources privy to Pangilinan's meetings with NTT in Tokyo said the Japanese telecom giant assured Pangilinan and PLDT chair Antonio Cojuangco Jr. that it would "never go to bed" with the Gokongweis.

They said NTT's apprehension stemmed from the experience of

GOKONGWEIS/ B3



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(As of Wednesday, June 26,2002)

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Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	18.5	18.5	17.5	17.5	492,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	49.5	49.5	48	48.5	852,300
China Banking Corp.	635	640	635	635	770
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34	34	31.5	31.5	293,300
First E-Bank Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	22,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34.5	35	33.5	34	416,300
Philippine National Bank	34	34	34	34	8,700
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	5,100
Security Bank Corp.	13.75	14	13.75	14	1,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	21.25	21.25	20.75	20.75	17,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.28	1.28	30,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	80,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1370	1370	1365	1370	680
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1100	1105	1100	1105	1,790
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24.25	24.25	22	22	55,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.71	0.71	2,550,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	595	595	570	570	64,530
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	200,000
Piltel	0.35	0.35	0.33	0.33	1,050,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	390	390	372.5	372.5	131,190
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	32,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	21.5	21.5	20	20	37,500
Manila Electric Co. B	32	32	30	30.5	1,841,800
Petron Corp.	1.64	1.64	1.62	1.64	3,745,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.66	1.66	1.62	1.62	62,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.16	1.16	250,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.4	2.4	2.38	2.4	1,852,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.36	0 36	0.36	0.36	40,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.66	1.68	1.66	1.68	31,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	5,050,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	20,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	1,450,400
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	33	33	33	33	214,000
RFM Corp.	1.02	1.02	0.96	0.96	1,976,000
San Miguel Corp. A	47.5	48.5	46.5	48.5	472,000
San Miguel Corp. B	52.5	53	51	51	792,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	220,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.1	5.2	5	5.1	2,695,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.3	2.32	2.3	2.32	3,155,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.42	2.42	2.42	2.42	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	1,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.45	0.39	0.4	14,930,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	50,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	210,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	50,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22	22	21	21	268,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	100,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	70,000
Ionics Inc.	6.1	6.3	6	6.3	73,000
J G Summit Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.58	1.6	550,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	2,300,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	3,300,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.73	0.7	0.7	4,980,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	50,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	950,000
Music Corp.	0.2	0.21	0.2	0.21	230,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	30,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	3,860,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.32	0.32	490,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0 08	0 08	0.08	0.08	1,100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Pryce Corp.	0.075	0.075	0.075	0.075	2,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	8	8	8	8	2,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	190,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	50,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	170,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	24.5	24.5	22	22	358,600
Jollibee Warrants	13	13	13	13	196,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,400
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.2	5.3	6,570,000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	67,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	170,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	1,150,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	270,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	1,500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.34	2.34	2.3	2.3	4,471,000
Highlands Prime Leisure	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	50,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.78	1.78	16,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	400,000
SM Development Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.8	0.8	200,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.5	5.4	5.4	15,632,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	500,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	2,000,000
Manila Mining Corp B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	100,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	10,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	5,500,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	1,830,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	210,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	60,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	8,000,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	3,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	1,100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000

CURRENCIES

June 26, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency IN Peso
United States	Dollar	1.021346	1.000000	50.4720
Japan	Yen	0.008419	0.008243	0.4160
United Kingdom	Pound	1.540088	1.507900	76.1067
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130944	0.128207	6.4709
Switzerland	Franc	0.681442	0.667200	33.6749
Canada	Dollar	0.674156	0.660066	33.3149
Singapore	Dollar	0.577685	0.565611	28.5475
Australia	Dollar	0.580640	0.568505	28.6936
Bahrain	Dinar	2.709285	2.652661	133.8851
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.272344	0.266652	13.4585
Brunei	Dollar	0.576673	0.564621	28.4976
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000118	0.000116	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.024382	0.023872	1.2049
UAE	Dirham	0.278091	0.272279	13.7425
Korea	Won	0.000852	0.000834	0.0421
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.979100	49.4171
Argentina	Peso	0.278313	0.270270	13.6411
Brazil	Real	0.264597	0.259067	13.0756
Denmark	Kroner	0.364376	0.356761	18.0064
India	Rupee	0.133963	0.131163	6.6201
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.020916	0.020479	1.0336
Mexico	New Peso	0.268811	0.101061	5.1008
New Zealand	Dollar	0.500758	0.490292	24.7460
Norway	Kroner	0.135655	0.132820	6.7037
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017048	0.016692	0.8425
South Africa	Rand	0.099324	0.097248	4.9083
Sweden	Kroner	0.110231	0.107927	5.4473
Syria	Pound	0.019870	0.019455	0.9819
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030451	0.029815	1.5048
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000792	0.000775	0.0391

Gov't readies order on BIR restructuring

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue is embarking on an ambitious restructuring program that aims to eliminate corruption in the agency, apprehend tax cheats and enhance the bureau's revenue collection efficiency.

The program aims to transform the BIR structure into a corporate type of organization.

BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez said the Department of Finance had endorsed to Malacañang for approval an executive order that would implement the first phase of the reform.

He said he was hoping the Palace would issue the order in July so that the BIR could immediately start its "transformation."

The EO will pave the way for the rationalization of the bureau's functions by segregating the operations of its various units depending on the type of taxpayers.

The first wave of the BIR reforms, said Bañez, would also call for the outsourcing or farming out of its non-core functions.

"The first phase will lay the groundwork for the more important reforms to be tackled in the second phase," said the BIR chief.

The second phase, said Bañez, would involve the transformation of the BIR structure into a corporate setup that would be accountable to the public and to the government, where inefficient personnel would be fired while the efficient ones would be rewarded.

In line with this move, Bañez said the BIR had recommended the dismissal of 16 personnel.

Under a corporate setup, the commissioner will be chosen by a seven-member revenue board that will include the heads of the Departments of Finance and Budget, the National Economic and Development Authority and four representatives from the private sector. He will also have a fixed tenure.

"This is not a move to privatize the bureau or to make it an autonomous body. It is to make our operations more efficient and for everybody to be more accountable. There will be a performance-based review of operations and a system of rewards and punishment," stressed the BIR chief.

The yearly budget of the BIR, once the transformation is completed, will be fixed at one to 2 percent of the previous year's collections.

To bind the BIR to its commitments, a performance contract will be signed yearly by the agency head and the revenue board such that "substantial failure" to deliver will allow the government to fire people.

Stocks plunge . . .

From page B1

Telecom stocks led the broad market slide, with Globe Telecom Inc. ending down 4.2 percent at P570 and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. down 3.87 percent at P372.5.

Traders cited talk of a new tax on the sector and uncertainty about a battle for control of PLDT as reasons for the slide.

Regional markets were also weaker, fearing the worst when Wall Street reacted to WorldCom Inc.'s disclosure of $3.8 billion worth of accounting irregularities over the past five quarters.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index ended down 2.79 percent at 1,164.49 points, after touching an intraday low of 1,161.75.

It was the lowest finish since Dec. 27 last year, when the index ended at 1,152.86. After reaching a high for 2002 on Feb. 20, the index is now down nearly 20 percent having retraced all its gains.

"In general, I think investors are worried about the US economy, and most institutional investors prefer to stay liquid at the moment," said Henry Ong, vice president for sales at KGI Securities. *Reuters*

DISCLOSURES

DMCI Holdings Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from July 31 to Aug. 28. The record date for stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting was also moved from June 17 to July 15.

* * *

STENIEL Manufacturing Corp. announced the appointment of Genesis Goldi Golingan as acting president and CEO of the company.

* * *

ELECTED independent directors of **Crown Equities Inc.** were Ramon Recto and Oscar Lopez-Dee.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. declared P0.50-per-share cash dividends on its series A, I, R, W, AA and BB 10-percent cumulative convertible preferred stocks. Dividends will be payable on Aug. 30 for stockholders of record as of July 25.

* * *

CYBER Bay Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 23 with record date on July 24.

* * *

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc. bought 260,200 of its own shares at P33.50 per share and another 19,800 at P33 per share. ***Compiled by Rey Leyesa, PDI Research***

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Borrow the best minds in the world of business as they share their thoughts on how to pull through and succeed in these tough economic times.

Everything is all set for the 33rd Philippine Marketing Association (PMA) National Marketing Conference which will be held on July 3 and 4, 2002 at the Grand Ballroom of the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel.

This year's theme is "Winning in Tough Times: Stand Out or Lose Out." It is a celebration of case studies on companies and organizations that have gone against the grain, beaten the odds and won.

JOSIAH GO, President of Mansmith and Fielders, will tackle **The Recessionary Marketing Plan: Playing To Win**

DR. F. LANDA JOCANO, Executive Director of Punlad Research House, will reveal **Filipino Values: How Filipinos Handle Change**

AUGUSTUS CAEZAR JEREOS, Vice-President and Trade Marketing Sales Services Director of Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines, will share his expertise on **Channel Marketing: Reaching Out To Your Customers**

SAMIE LIM, Chairman of Philippine Franchise Center, will unravel **Uncommon Strategic Alliances**

GRACE MAGNO, Marketing Director of Philippine Pizza, shall share her knowledge on **Market Leadership Through Product Innovation**

LIZA GOKONGWEI, Publisher of Summit Publishing, is set on **Changing The Rules Of The Game**

RAMON JIMENEZ, Joint CEO of Jimenez D'Arcy, shall share some tips on **Recognizing A Big Idea When You See One**

MARGOT TORRES, General Manager of Edsamail, will discuss **Leveraging Technology To Achieve Better Results For Your Brand**

HENRY TENEDERO, President of Center for Learning and Teaching Styles, shows the ropes in **Making It Happen**

Finally, **HON. RICHARD GORDON**, Secretary of Department of Tourism, fires up everything with the battlecry, **Beating All Odds**

**HER EXCELLENCY,
PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO**
will deliver the
KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Don't miss this incredible chance to learn to win in an ever changing market!

Register before June 30 with the regular rate of P7, 500 per delegate or On-site on July 2 & 3 for P9, 500 per delegate. For more details, please call Lydia, Rose, or Marjorie at telephone no. 893-7127, 892-3144, or 813-0466. You can also email your inquiries to pma@philonline.com or visit our website at www.pma.philonline.com.

PHILIPPINE MARKETING
ASSOCIATION, INC.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Wednesday, June 26,2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco De Oro Univ Bank	18 5	18 5	17.5	17 5	492,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	49 5	49.5	48	48 5	852,300
China Banking Corp	635	640	635	635	770
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14 25	14 25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	34	34	31 5	31.5	293,300
First E-Bank Corp.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	22,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34 5	35	33.5	34	416,300
Philippine National Bank	34	34	34	34	8,700
Rizal Comm Banking Corp.	10 25	10 25	10 25	10.25	5,100
Security Bank Corp	13 75	14	13.75	14	1,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	21 25	21 25	20 75	20.75	17,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1 3	1.3	1.28	1.28	30,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.32	0 32	0.32	0 32	80,000
Manulife Financial Corp	1370	1370	1365	1370	680
PCI Leasing & Fin Inc.	0.8	0 8	0.8	0.8	10,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1100	1105	1100	1105	1,790
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	24 25	24 25	22	22	55,300
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0 72	0.72	0.71	0.71	2,550,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	595	595	570	570	64,530
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.03	0 03	0 03	0.03	200 000
Piltel	0.35	0.35	0 33	0 33	1,050,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	390	390	372.5	372.5	131,190
Philweb.Com Inc	0 014	0 014	0.013	0.014	32,500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	21.5	21 5	20	20	37,500
Manila Electric Co. B	32	32	30	30.5	1,841,800
Petron Corp.	1 64	1 64	1 62	1.64	3,745,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1 66	1 66	1 62	1 62	62,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1 18	1 18	1 16	1.16	250,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.4	2.4	2 38	2.4	1,852,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc	0 36	0 36	0 36	0 36	40,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp	1 66	1 68	1 66	1.68	31,000
Union Cement Corp.	0 7	0 7	0 7	0.7	5,050,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp	2.2	2 2	2 2	2.2	20,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	1,450,400
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	33	33	33	33	214,000
RFM Corp.	1.02	1.02	0 96	0 96	1,976,000
San Miguel Corp A	47.5	48.5	46.5	48.5	472,000
San Miguel Corp. B	52 5	53	51	51	792,200
Vitarich Corp.	0 31	0 32	0.31	0.32	220,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5 1	5 2	5	5.1	2,695,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.3	2 32	2 3	2.32	3,155,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2 42	2 42	2.42	2.42	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc	10	10	10	10	1,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc	0 07	0.07	0 07	0.07	100,000
Benpres Holdings Corp	0.45	0.45	0.39	0.4	14,930,000
Crown Equities Inc	0 23	0.23	0.23	0.23	50,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.16	0 16	0.16	0.16	210,000
Filinvest Dev Corp	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	50 000
First Phil Hldgs Corp	22	22	21	21	268,800
Global Equities Inc.	0.105	0 105	0.105	0.105	100,000
House Of Investments Inc	0.42	0 42	0 42	0.42	70,000
Ionics Inc.	6 1	6 3	6	6.3	73,000
J G Summit Holdings Inc	1.6	1 6	1.58	1.6	550,000
Marsteel Cons Inc. A	0.012	0 012	0 012	0 012	2,300,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc B	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	3,300,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0 73	0 7	0 7	4,980,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0 4	50,000
Metro Pacific Corp	0.29	0 29	0 29	0.29	950,000
Music Corp.	0.2	0.21	0 2	0 21	230,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc	0.115	0 115	0 115	0 115	30 000
Roxas Holdings Inc	0 65	0 65	0 65	0 65	3,860,000
Solid Group Inc.	0 34	0 34	0 32	0 32	490,000
Unioil Res & Holdings Co.	0 032	0 032	0 032	0.032	100 000
Uniwide Holdings Inc	0 08	0 08	0 08	0 08	1 100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Pryce Corp.	0 075	0 075	0 075	0 075	2,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	8	8	8	8	2,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0 33	0 33	0.33	0 33	190 000
Fairmont Holdings Inc	0 46	0 46	0 46	0 46	50,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0 25	0 25	0 25	0 25	170 000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs Corp (Pdr	24.5	24 5	22	[illegible]	358,600
Jollibee Warrants	13	13	13	13	196 000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series 1	10 25	10 25	10 25	10 25	100
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10 25	10.25	10 25	10 25	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10 25	10 25	10 25	10 25	2,200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10 25	10 25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10 25	10 25	10.25	10 25	1,400
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5 5	5 5	5.2	5.3	6,570 000
Cityland Development Corp.	2.02	2 02	2 02	2 02	67,000
Cebu Holdings Inc	0 28	0 28	0.28	0 28	170,000
C & P Homes Inc	0.2	0.2	0.2	0 2	1,150,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.29	0 29	0 29	0 29	270,000
Empire East Land Inc	0 22	0.22	0 21	0.21	1,500,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2 34	2.34	2 3	2.3	4,471,000
Highlands Prime Leisure	1.6	1 6	1 6	1.6	50,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.78	1 78	1 78	1 78	16,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.04	0 04	0.04	0.04	400,000
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SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.5	5 5	5 4	5.4	15,632,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0 205	0 205	0 205	0 205	500,000
Manila Mining Corp A	0.0036	0 0036	0.0036	0.0036	2,000,000
Manila Mining Corp B	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0 0036	100,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0028	0 0028	0 0028	0.0028	10,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't Corp	0 015	0.015	0.015	0.015	5 500,000
Philex Mining Corp A	0 25	0 25	0 25	0.25	1,830,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.29	0 29	0.29	0.29	210,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet & Min A	0.003	0 003	0 003	0 003	60,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min B	0.0032	0.0032	0 0032	0.0032	8,000,000
Pacifica	0.012	0.012	0.012	0 012	3,000 000
Sinophil Corp.	0 04	0 04	0 04	0 04	1,100,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	100,000

CURRENCIES

June 26, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency IN Peso
United States	Dollar	1.021346	1.000000	50.4720
Japan	Yen	0.008419	0.008243	0.4160
United Kingdom	Pound	1.540088	1.507900	76.1067
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.130944	0.128207	6.4709
Switzerland	Franc	0.681442	0.667200	33.6749
Canada	Dollar	0.674156	0.660066	33.3149
Singapore	Dollar	0.577685	0.565611	28.5475
Australia	Dollar	0.580640	0.568505	28.6936
Bahrain	Dinar	2.709285	2.652661	133.8851
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.272344	0.266652	13.4585
Brunei	Dollar	0.576673	0.564621	28.4976
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000118	0.000116	0.0059
Thailand	Baht	0.024382	0.023872	1.2049
UAE	Dirham	0.278091	0.272279	13.7425
Korea	Won	0.000852	0.000834	0.0421
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.979100	49.4171
Argentina	Peso	0.278313	0.272270	13.6411
Brazil	Real	0.264597	0.259067	13.0756
Denmark	Kroner	0.364376	0.356761	18.0064
India	Rupee	0.133963	0.131163	6.6201
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.020916	0.020479	1.0336
Mexico	New Peso	0.268811	0.101061	5.1008
New Zealand	Dollar	0.500758	0.490292	24.7460
Norway	Kroner	0.135655	0.132820	6.7037
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017048	0.016692	0.8425
South Africa	Rand	0.099324	0.097248	4.9083
Sweden	Kroner	0.110231	0.107927	5.4473
Syria	Pound	0.019870	0.019455	0.9819
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030451	0.029815	1.5048
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000792	0.000775	0.0391

Gov't readies order on BIR restructuring

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue is embarking on an ambitious restructuring program that aims to eliminate corruption in the agency, apprehend tax cheats and enhance the bureau's revenue collection efficiency.

The program aims to transform the BIR structure into a corporate type of organization.

BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez said the Department of Finance had endorsed to Malacañang for approval an executive order that would implement the first phase of the reform.

He said he was hoping the Palace would issue the order in July so that the BIR could immediately start its "transformation."

The EO will pave the way for the rationalization of the bureau's functions by segregating the operations of its various units depending on the type of taxpayers.

The first wave of the BIR reforms, said Bañez, would also call for the outsourcing or farming out of its non-core functions.

"The first phase will lay the groundwork for the more important reforms to be tackled in the second phase," said the BIR chief.

The second phase, said Bañez, would involve the transformation of the BIR structure into a corporate setup that would be accountable to the public and to the government, where inefficient personnel would be fired while the efficient ones would be rewarded.

In line with this move, Bañez said the BIR had recommended the dismissal of 16 personnel.

Under a corporate setup, the commissioner will be chosen by a seven-member revenue board that will include the heads of the Departments of Finance and Budget, the National Economic and Development Authority and four representatives from the private sector. He will also have a fixed tenure.

"This is not a move to privatize the bureau or to make it an autonomous body. It is to make our operations more efficient and for everybody to be more accountable. There will be a performance-based review of operations and a system of rewards and punishment," stressed the BIR chief.

The yearly budget of the BIR, once the transformation is completed, will be fixed at one to 2 percent of the previous year's collections.

To bind the BIR to its commitments, a performance contract will be signed yearly by the agency head and the revenue board such that "substantial failure" to deliver will allow the government to fire people.

Stocks plunge . . .

From page B1

Telecom stocks led the broad market slide, with Globe Telecom Inc. ending down 4.2 percent at P570 and Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. down 3.87 percent at P372.5.

Traders cited talk of a new tax on the sector and uncertainty about a battle for control of PLDT as reasons for the slide.

Regional markets were also weaker, fearing the worst when Wall Street reacted to WorldCom Inc.'s disclosure of $3.8 billion worth of accounting irregularities over the past five quarters.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index ended down 2.79 percent at 1,164.49 points, after touching an intraday low of 1,161.75.

It was the lowest finish since Dec. 27 last year, when the index ended at 1,152.86. After reaching a high for 2002 on Feb. 20, the index is now down nearly 20 percent having retraced all its gains.

"In general, I think investors are worried about the US economy, and most institutional investors prefer to stay liquid at the moment," said Henry Ong, vice president for sales at KGI Securities. *Reuters*

DISCLOSURES

DMCI Holdings Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from July 31 to Aug. 28. The record date for stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting was also moved from June 17 to July 15

. . .

STENIEL Manufacturing Corp. announced the appointment of Genesis Goldi Golingan as acting president and CEO of the company

. . .

ELECTED independent directors of Crown Equities Inc. were Ramon Recto and Oscar Lopez-Dee.

PHILIPPINE Long Distance Telephone Co. declared P0.50-per-share cash dividends on its series A, I, R, W, AA and BB 10-percent cumulative convertible preferred stocks. Dividends will be payable on Aug. 30 for stockholders of record as of July 25.

. . .

CYBER Bay Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 23 with record date on July 24.

. . .

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc. bought 260,200 of its own shares at P33.50 per share and another 19,800 at P33 per share. *Compiled by Rey Leyesa, PDI Research*

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This year's theme is "Winning in Tough Times: Stand Out or Lose Out." It is a celebration of case studies on companies and organizations that have gone against the grain, beaten the odds and won.

JOSIAH GO, President of
Mansmith and Fielders, will tackle
The Recessionary Marketing Plan:
Playing To Win

DR. F. LANDA JOCANO, Executive Director of
Punlad Research House, will reveal
Filipino Values:
How Filipinos Handle Change

AUGUSTUS CAEZAR JEREOS, Vice-President
and Trade Marketing Sales Services Director of
Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines,
will share his expertise on
Channel Marketing: Reaching Out
To Your Customers

SAMIE LIM, Chairman of Philippine
Franchise Center, will unravel
Uncommon Strategic Alliances

GRACE MAGNO, Marketing Director of
Philippine Pizza, shall share her knowledge on
Market Leadership Through
Product Innovation

LIZA GOKONGWEI, Publisher of Summit
Publishing, is set on
Changing The Rules Of The Game

RAMON JIMENEZ, Joint CEO of
Jimenez D'Arcy, shall share some tips on
Recognizing A Big Idea
When You See One

MARGOT TORRES, General Manager of
Edsamail, will discuss
Leveraging Technology
To Achieve Better Results
For Your Brand

HENRY TENEDERO, President of
Center for Learning and Teaching Styles,
shows the ropes in
Making It Happen

Finally, **HON. RICHARD GORDON**,
Secretary of Department of
Tourism, fires up everything
with the battlecry,
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Court bars gov't from lifting punitive duties on cement

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE Cement Manufacturers Corp. scored a key victory in its crusade to ward off the influx of imported cement as the Court of Appeals barred the government from lifting the prevailing safeguard measures against cement imports.

In a ruling issued June 21, the CA granted Philcemcor's petition for a writ of preliminary injunction and it directed the Department of Trade and Industry and the Tariff Commission to observe the status quo to preserve the rights of the local cement manufacturers and avoid "irreparable injury."

The CA said it wanted to avoid the possibility of the DTI and TC lifting the safeguard measures while the courts decide on Philcemcor's petition to retain these protective measures.

The DTI granted Philcemcor's plea for a provisional duty of P20.60 per 40-kilogram bag of cement last December pending the TC's review on whether to impose permanent duties and quotas.

But the TC ruled in March that there was no connection between the cement industry's financial woes and the import surge since 1999 and it recommended the lifting of the provisional duty.

Although it disagreed with the TC's findings, the DTI was compelled to issue an order lifting the provisional duty and to reimburse the importers of the P86 million worth of cash bonds they paid for the provisional duty.

Former lawmaker Edcel C. Lagman said the court order also forced Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II to issue his independent decision on Philcemcor's application for general safeguard measures under the Safeguard Measures Act consistent with his view that the TC report was "baseless and erroneous."

Philcemcor successfully obtained a temporary restraining order from the CA in April which barred the DTI and TC from lifting the safeguard measure which was supposed to expire on June 28.

Philcemcor claimed that the implementation of the DTI order would cause the immediate return of the cash bond, lifting of the safeguard measure and cause irreparable injury to the cement industry.

Although the provisional duty represents only half of Philcemcor's desired 50 percent additional duty, it has been effective in discouraging cement imports which have plunged from its peak market share of 32 percent in July last year to only 4 percent this year. Philcemcor warned that the provisional duty would open the floodgates for the influx of cement from Indonesia and Japan.

Lagman also justified the defenses being set up against cement imports by noting that other countries, specifically Taiwan, have also set up barriers to cement imports.

He said Taiwan Cement Corp. succeeded in convincing its government to impose a 45-percent duty of Philippine cement imports even though they account for only 4 percent of the total Taiwanese market.

THINNING VOLUMES

PSE junks extended trading

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Stock Exchange plans to return to its old half-day trading schedule after extended trading hours implemented since Feb. 20 failed to perk up trade volumes.

In an interview yesterday, PSE director and chair of floor trading and arbitrage committee (FTAC) Eddie Gobing said PSE chair Vivian Yuchengco had asked the FTAC to study the scrapping of afternoon trading at the sidelines of the board meeting yesterday.

The PSE decided last February to extend trading hours from 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. in a bid to perk up volume by catching trades from Europe and the United States, but volumes have not picked up.

Gobing said the FTAC would take concrete steps to again change the trading hours once the board issues the written order.

He, however, said that most members have already indicated that they wanted to go back to the original 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon session.

"It seems that it (afternoon trading) is not working. Volume is thinning," Gobing said.

During the board meeting yesterday, five PSE directors led by veteran broker Robert Coyiuto Jr. who were protesting Yuchengco's election as chair returned to the boardroom for the first time since the election squabble that erupted in March.

"It (meeting) was friendly," said Gobing, who was one of the five returning directors. "Every one has to cooperate now."

In a statement, the five directors—including Harry Liu, Federico Lim and Edwin Luy—said they decided to return to the board to give the majority stockholders of PSE due representation in the board.

"We are concerned with the deteriorating situation at the PSE due in part to the board's leadership even with the presence of the eight non-broker directors who supported the election of the present chair, president, treasurer and corporate secretary of the PSE," their joint statement said.

The five directors also pledged to institute "meaningful reforms, achieve efficiency and correct some of the practices of the current administration."

In particular, Coyiuto's group expressed concern over "the exodus of competent PSE staff members."

"There is also now an urgent need to protect the tenure of other loyal and competent executives," the group said, amid reports that PSE senior vice president and chief operating officer Jose Cervantes was among those being eased out.

StanChart eyes expansion via thrift bank acquisition

By Elena R. Torrijos

STANDARD Chartered Bank, one of the largest foreign banks operating in the country, is considering acquiring a local bank to support its long-term growth strategy in the Philippines.

HSBC acquired a thrift bank last year while Citibank N.A. has also been scouting for a small bank for acquisition.

In a briefing with reporters Tuesday evening at the launching of the bank's priority banking package, Standard Chartered Bank chief executive officer for the Philippines Annemarie Durbin said the acquisition of either a thrift or commercial bank was possible.

Durbin said the bank was conducting a thorough analysis of what the bank's vision should be for the next 10 years and what measures would be needed to achieve that vision.

Asked about its criteria in selecting the bank to acquire, Durbin said StanChart would be particular on the location and operational systems.

StanChart has, at present, six branches. It is planning to increase the number depending on the locations that will be approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. Under the law, foreign banks operating with a full bank branch license in the country can only have nine branches nationwide. This has limited foreign banks' ability to reach out to the consumer market. The acquisition of a local bank can pave the way for the expansion of the foreign banks' branch network in the country.

Gokongweis . . .

From page B1

another Japanese company, telecom equipment maker NEC Corp., with the Gokongwei group's Digital Telecommunications Holdings Inc.

Digitel owes NEC roughly $330 million, which it has been trying to restructure.

PLDT sources said NTT assured Pangilinan that there was "no way" it would agree to a partnership with the Gokongweis.

A Digitel source said earlier that his company's relationship with NEC remained smooth.

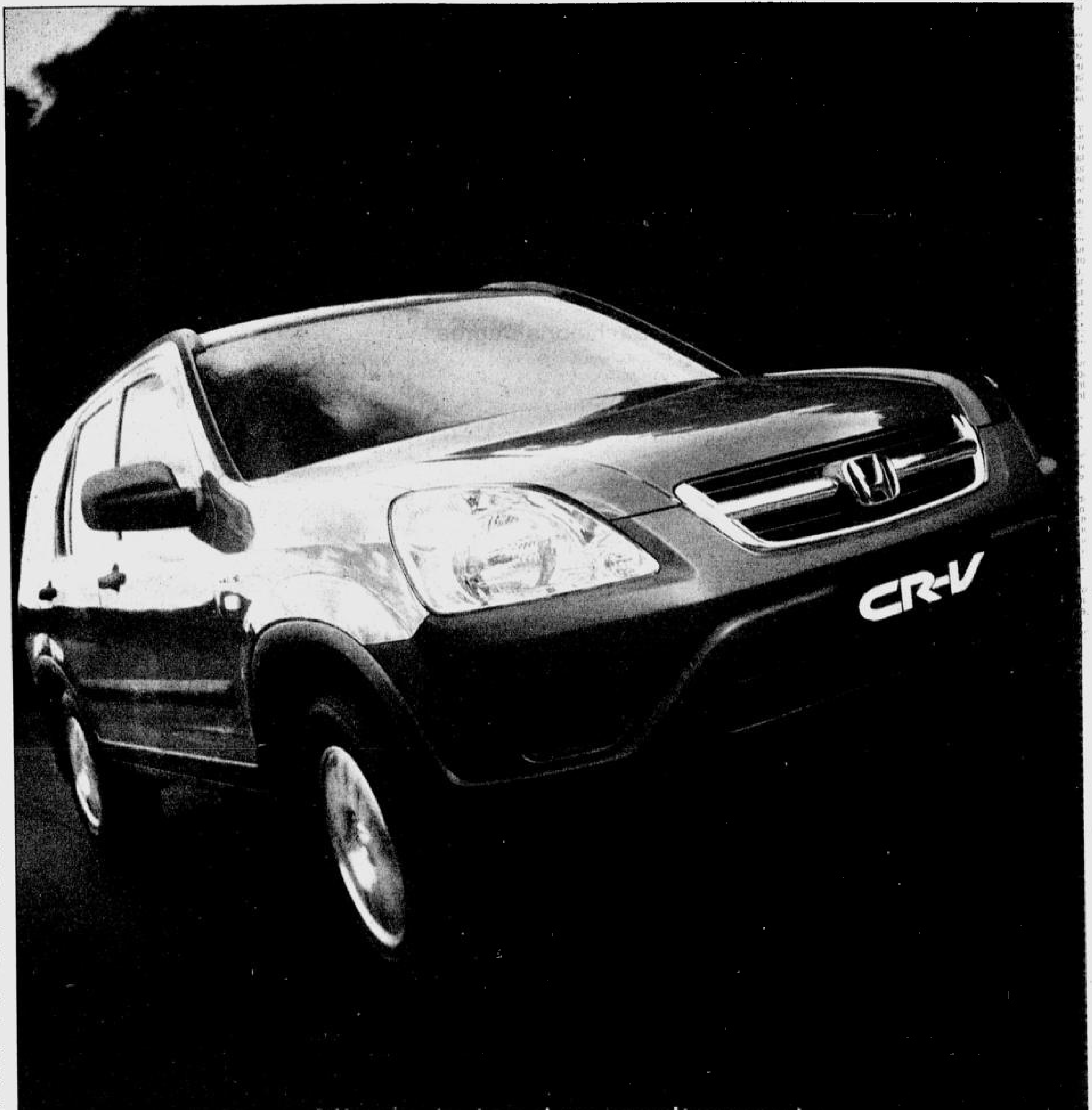
NTT has been reported to be studying how the Gokongwei group will fare as a partner in PLDT.

A source close to the Gokongwei camp said NTT wanted a partner that not only had enough cash but also a corporate culture it could deal with.

An insider said NTT was evaluating the "technical and management expertise of the Gokongweis in running a telecommunications company, considering they have no track record in this field."

The Gokongweis' Digitel is the country's second-largest landline service provider. It has been in operation since the early '90s and now has over 400,000 subscribers all over Luzon.

Apart from evaluating the Gokongwei group's capability in managing a telecom firm, NTT was also said to be examining the Gokongwei group's record in corporate governance, treatment of minority shareholders and its public image. *With a report from Abigail L. Ho*



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Joseph A. Regis - **Academic Distinction**	Marine Electrical Technician	College of Technological Sciences - Cebu
Charle Magne L. Labrador	Computer Data Processing	Binalbagan Catholic College
Arthur B. Sarabia	Computer Data Processing	Binalbagan Catholic College
William Panfilo C. Tapac	Electronic Technology	College of Technological Sciences - Cebu

Successful Board Examinees

Bonnie N. Billones - **8th Placer May 2002**	Certified Public Accountant	Binalbagan Catholic College
Francisco B. Espanto Jr.	Civil Engineer	Central Mindanao University
Garry R. Francisco	Mechanical Engineer	Rizal Technological University
Arsenio L. Jose Jr.	Certified Public Accountant	Philippine School of Business Administration
Manny B. Lauresta	Chemical Engineer	Polytechnic State College of Palawan
Larienel M. Lopez	Electrical Engineer	Xavier University
Constancio N. Taclin Jr.	Criminologist	Cagayan de Oro College

A Mass will be offered at 10:00 a.m. today
at the Menzi Trust Fund office
20th Floor, Security Bank Centre
6776 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

In Loving Memory
on the
First Death Anniversary
of our dearly beloved

ETHEL GUEVARRA QUIAMBAO

November 9, 1978 - June 27, 2001

Her parents Eufracio Jr. and Emma; brothers Eufracio III, Edwin, Eugene; sisters Elaine and Elmira; brothers and sister-in-law, nephews and niece wish to thank all our relatives and friends who offered their condolences and prayers during our moment of grief.

MASSES OFFERED:

St. Thomas of Aquinas Church *Palo Alto, California, USA*	June 26, 2002 7:30 AM
Xavier School Chapel *San Juan, Metro Manila*	June 27, 2002 6:45 AM
Sanctuario de San Antonio Church *Forbes Park, Makati City*	June 27, 2002 12:15 PM
Sto. Domingo Church *Quezon City*	June 27, 2002 12:15 PM

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"For GOD so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,
that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

ROLANDO C. DE GUZMAN

of Dinalupihan, Bataan
and Malolos, Bulacan
Publisher and General Manager,
FAR Publications

Peacefully joined his Creator on June 25, 2002
at the age of 55.

His loving wife **AVELINA**; son **FRANCIS NOEL**, sisters and brothers, relatives, friends, clients and employees mourn his passing away and request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence, 118 Paz Mabini Street, Guinhawa, Malolos, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 29, 2002 at the Malolos Memorial Park, Malolos, Bulacan after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Barasoain Church, Malolos, Bulacan.

NOEMI MENDOZA MAPA

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
and joined her beloved
husband Jose "Peping" Mapa and son Lapu Lapu
on June 25, 2002 at the age of 76.

Her bereaved children **SERGIO & VIDA, BABY & LITO, JUNIOR, JESSIE & ROSE, BETH & GARY, IRMA & ROGER, RUTHIE & MARLON, ICO & GIGI, PATJU & ART, MIA & RANDELL**; grandchildren and great grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills, San Juan.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 29, 2002 at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Tandang Sora, Quezon City, after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Santuario.

We lovingly remember

Cecilia de Ocampo Lagman

on the occasion of her
First Death Anniversary

June 27, 2002

We, husband **Oscar** and children **Monica, Ojay,** and **Maysie**, request relatives, friends, and those whose lives she touched to join us in our prayers where Masses will be offered today:

Sacred Heart of Jesus Chaplaincy, Hillsborough, Alabang	6:00 a.m.
St. Benedict Chapel, Alabang Hills	6:30 p.m.
St. James the Great Parish, Ayala Alabang	6:30 p.m.
St. Jerome Emiliani & St. Susana Parish, Ayala Alabang	12:15 noon
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park	12:15 noon
St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish, Magallanes	6:00 p.m.
St. Andrew the Apostle Parish, Bel-Air	6:30 p.m.
St. John Bosco Parish, Makati	6:00 p.m.
Santuario de San Jose, Greenhills	7:15 a.m.

JUANITA "Nitz" STA. TERESA BENZON

of Zamboanga City, Manila and Quezon City

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on June 25, 2002 at the age 55.

Her loving husband **Atty. Mario A. Benzon**; children **Donna & Paul, Jenny, Marlon** and **Beng**; grandchildren **Del** and **Pat**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel C, St. Peter Funeral Homes, Quezon City. On June 29, 2002, she will be transferred to TBC II Chapel in Balonbato, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, July 2, 2002 at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park after the morning Mass.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10;39

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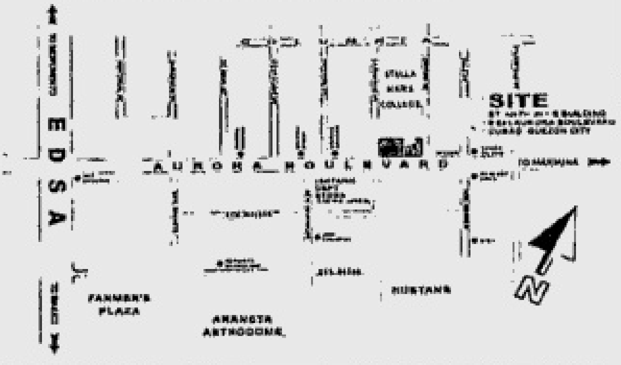

10th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
of
COL. (RET.) ALFEO F. RILLERA SR.

17 November 1927 - 27 June 1992

BELOVED SOLDIER YOU MAY HAVE "FADED"
AWAY FOR 10 YEARS NOW...
As the old song goes
"Old soldier never die, they just fade away..."
Your absence made me feel like a sheep,
Alone and lost in a forest...

MY LOVE FOR YOU AS
A YOUNG GIRL OF 15...

AND YOU AS A YOUNG CADET...

STILL LIVES ON IN MY HEART...
We did well manning the post you left
Your only cute girl (**Yolanda**) now a nurse in New York
Your namesake (**Al Jr**) now an architect in Canada
Your youngest boy (**Joseph**) now a doctor, M.D.
We will be forever proud of you.

GOODBYE MY DARLING SOLDIER,
TILL WE MEET AGAIN IN GOD'S GARDEN...

Masses at the Parish Church of the Resurrection
on June 27, 28, 29 & 30, 2002.

Beloved SALIMA

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

Engr. Claro Cesario "Bobby" T. Moscoso

sincerely convey our deepest gratitude and appreciation to all who offered Masses and prayers, send flowers and messages of sympathy, gave donations, traveled all the way from their offices in Iloilo City and from other parts of Region VI just for the wake and funeral, visited and kept vigil, attended funeral rites and days of prayer, and who, in countless and immeasurable ways, condoled with and comforted us in our moment of grief.

Maraming, maraming SALAMAT PO.
God Bless and Reward You All.

Fernando Mamaril Vergara

of Mangatarem, Pangasinan
and Teachers Village, Quezon City

has peacefully joined our Lord on June 26, 2002 at the age of 75.

His wife **Herminia**; sister **Eufemia**; sons and daughters-in-law **Emmanuel & Magdalena, Raymund & Rosario, & Joseph**; grandchildren **Marianne, Paul, Regina, Ramon, Roxanne, & Rafael**; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law **Ricardo & Nenita, Paterno & Myrna,** and **Consuelo** and other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His mortal remains lie in state at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Church (Claret), Mahinhin Street, UP Village, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, June 29, 2002 at the Court of Remembrance, Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina, after the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass at Claret Church.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

"A rare and great light has gone out, but one
that has made all others shine brighter."

Doreen Gamboa Fernandez

October 28, 1934 – June 25, 2002

Beloved daughter to **Aguinaldo** (+) and **Alicia**; sister to **Della** and **Ben**, **Nil** and **Lyn**; spouse to **Wili** (+) whom she now joins; teacher, mentor and friend to many, to all of whom she was an extraordinary inspiration. She shall be profoundly missed.

Funeral services will be announced after her cremated remains arrive from New York City.

It would please Doreen if in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Doreen Gamboa Fernandez Professorial Chair at the Ateneo de Manila University or the Negros Cultural Foundation.

Novena prayers are held daily after the 6pm Mass at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park.

ARTURO VILLENA PEREZ

Of Batangas City, Batangas

Joined his Creator on June 25, 2002
at the age of 75.

His loving wife **Rustica**; His sisters **Viring** and **Belen**; children and children-in-law **Heidi** and **Mario Ver**, **Arlyn** and **Bart Gatmaitan III**, **Rozel** and **James Work**, **Patti** and **Manolo Casas, Sally**, **Dinna** and **Sonny**; grandchildren **Miko** and **Raisa**, **Angela**, **BJ** and **Tessa**, **Melanie** and **Jimbo**, **Paolo**, **Gino** and **Therese**, **Pauline**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Mortuary of the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Batangas City.

Interment will be on June 29, 2002 at the Roman Catholic Cemetery, Batangas City after the 3:00 pm Mass.

People, Events & Products

Rare books at New Day sale

IN LINE with the observance of the Philippine Book Development Month this June, New Day Publishers is offering attractive book packages on history, child guidance and management.

The history package includes "Sulu Zone 1768-1898", "Global Economy" and "Iranun and Balangigi," which are the publishing house's latest titles on Philippine ethnology. Meanwhile, its student guidance resource activity trilogy include "I Am a Promise", "Making a Difference for Kids" and "Temporary Mess" by child psychology specialist Lito Jara.

Corporate planners will find insightful the management package which includes "Effective Manager, Making Your Meetings Productive" and "Enhancing Organizational Productivity" by organization guru Dr. Tom Andres.

Foodies will find delight in the cookbook combo which includes "Filipino Family Cookbook", "Rootcrops Your Cookmate" and "100+1 Banana Recipes".

Also on sale are the hard-bound books "History of the Armed Forces of the Philippines", "Philippine Presidents, The Filipino Saga" and "The Philippine Legislature" – which are the most comprehensive historical documentation of the institutions of the Republic.

For schools or private institutions building up their libraries, NDP will match their purchase with a donation for purchases with a minimum of P3,000. Moreover, New Day is also offering a buy one-get one promo and a 10-percent discount on all new titles.

According to NDP executive director Bezalie Uc-kung, the book sale is among the activities lined up for the Book Month celebration in cooperation with the National Book Development Board (NBDB), which is spearheading the event.

New Day is a 34-year-old publishing house specializing in religious, Filipiniana and inspirational books. Promo runs from June 3 to June 28, Monday to Friday at the New Day office at 11 Lands Street, Visayas Avenue, Quezon City. For inquiries, call 928-8046 or 927-5982.

1st RP candle design

THE PRODUCT Development and Design Center of the Philippines is facilitating the "First Philippine Candle Design Competition" scheduled on June 29 and 30 at the Santuario de San Antonio Parish Social Hall. 60 entries representing different candle makers in the country are joining the competition, the first of its kind in the country. This year's theme is about nature. Nine judges, most of them prominent names in the design, arts and culture world, will judge the works. Three major awards and special awards will be given to the best designs. The event is presented by Santuario de San Antonio Parish Center and is organized by PhilTrade Exhibits. For details, call 820-7879, 820-1570.

ER Tagle's one-man exhibit

SKYLINE gallery restaurant, in cooperation with Gallery Ivydell, present the one-man painting exhibit of positivism exponent and painter ER Tagle on Friday, June 28, at 6 p.m. Cocktails will be at the 8th floor of Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City. On exhibit until July 30 are timeless themes of bayanihan or the two fishermen, mother and child and bountiful harvests, all reflecting the hope that springs eternal in every person's heart. Proceeds will benefit the less fortunate children attending free art workshops conducted by Tagle and his artist-friends.

Plai forum slated

THE PHILIPPINE Librarians Association Inc. (Plai) will hold a forum on June 28 at 8 a.m. at the Epifanio de los Santos Hall at the National Library, TM Kalaw, Ermita, Manila. The topic for the forum shall be "Grants and Grants Seeking: What Librarians and Information Specialists Should Know." A registration fee of P150 for non-members, P100 for members, and P50 for undergraduate LIS students shall be charged. For inquiries, call Elnora Conti at 526-8295, Ma. Fe Abeleda-Robles at telefax 931-5566, and Shirley Nava at telefax 524-9740.

La Salle features Manila's history

THE HISTORY Department of De La Salle University-Manila will host the 12th Manila Studies Annual National Conference on June 27 and 28 at the Waldo Perfecto Seminar Room. Co-sponsored by the Manila Studies Association Inc., the conference is centered on the theme "Ang Maynila/Kamaynilaan sa Simula ng Bagong Siglo, 1902-2002." It aims to gather current researches and interpretations on the history and culture of Manila and its neighbor cities. Historians and academicians from DLSU-Manila, UP Manila and Diliman, Ateneo de Manila, UST, and the National Historical Institute will deliver their papers.

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Notice is given that the estate of the late MANUEL R. RABAGO was extrajudicially settled among his heirs w /waiver of rights per Doc.136 Page No. 28 Book XXXII Series of 2002 before Notary Public Benjamin T. Arrienda of Manila.
PDI-June 27,July 4&11, 2002

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that Fantasy World Stock Cert. #SW14517 in the name of Dan Carlo Colindo has been lost. If no contest received, new cert. will be issued.
PDI-June 27, July 4, 11, 2002

Notice is given that Metrobank Stock Certificates Nos. 6032 & 106096 issued to JOSE NG CHUA were lost
(PDI-June 20, 27 & July 3, 2002)

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PREQUALIFICATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested general building contractors currently with Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) License to apply for pre-qualification and if later found qualified, to bid for the project described below.

Project Title : Proposed Construction of Covered Walkway and Pedestrian Gate at BSRO - San Fernando, La Union
Scope of Work : Furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, technical supervision and other services and performing all operations necessary for the completion of the proposed construction of covered walkway all in accordance with the specifications and subject to the terms and conditions of the contract.
Project Location : BSP - Regional Office San Fernando, La Union
Approved Budget : Pesos Two Million Four Hundred Forty Eight Thousand (P2,448,000.00)
Source of Funding : Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Minimum Requirement (Criteria)
PCAB License : At least "C"
Contractor's Construction Experience : Should have completed within the last seven (7) years (1995 to present) at least one (1) project requiring construction of polycarbonate roofing on steel frame with a project area not less than 80 square meters or have completed at least one (1) similar project such as construction of structure like walkways with sheet roofing on steel roof frame and steel or concrete columns or similar building appendages costing not less than P1,200,000.00 escalated to current prices. The contractor's project manager should be a registered architect or civil engineer with at least three (3) years experience in construction particularly with projects of similar nature.
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Cost of Forms : Two Hundred Pesos per set (P200.00/set)
Date and Time of Issuance : June 20 to 28, 2002 / 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn & 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance and Submission of Accomplished Prequalification Statement/ Documents : PBAC Secretariat Rm 204 (Tel. No. 524-7011 loc. 3143) 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo (former V. Cruz) Streets, Manila
Deadline of Submission : July 1, 2002 / 4:30 p.m.
Notice of Prequalification / Predisqualification
Date and Time of Issuance : July 08, 2002 / 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn & 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance : PBAC Secretariat Rm. 204
Bid/Tender Documents : Shall be issued only to prequalified contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents
Cost of Documents/Place of Issuance : Two Thousand Pesos per set (P2,000.00/set) PBAC Secretariat Rm. 204
Date and Time of Issuance : July 09, 2002 / 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 nn & 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Pre-bid Conference
Date and Time : July 11, 2002 / 10:00 a.m.
Venue : BMD Conference Room / 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex
Submission and Opening of Bids
Deadline/Venue of Submission : July 31, 2002 / 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. / PBAC Secretariat Room 204

Date, Time and Venue of Issuance of Bid Documents, Pre-Bid Conference and Deadline of Submission/Opening of Bids shall be confirmed in the Notice of Prequalification.

For inquiries, please call PBAC Secretariat - Telephone No. 524-7011 local 3143.

Schedule for issuance of notice of prequalification/predisqualification up to deadline of submission of bids may be subject to change

Guidelines stipulated in the provisions of Executive Order No. 40 & its Implementing Rules and Regulations shall apply relative to the bidding & award of contract while the provisions of PD 1594 & its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended shall govern during project implementation.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts hereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obligated to compensate/indemnify the contractor/s for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) MARCOS J. SIONGCO, JR.
Chairman

(PDI - June 20 & 27, 2002)

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Bid No. TGISRP - 0031-01

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Qty	Unit	Description
27	Sets	Vertical Turbine Pump 2 Stage or multi-stages 250 MM (10" dia.) water lubricated, diesel engine driven using Right Angle Gear Drive
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27	Sets	Right Angle Gear Drive (RAGD)

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) as the Implementing Agency of the Project, invites eligible bidders to participate in the tender. Interested bidders may obtain bid documents from **July 01 to July 09, 2002** at the Procurement Division, Ground Floor, NIA Bldg., Diliman, Quezon City, Tel. Nos. **921-3906 & 922-4768** upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Four Thousand Pesos (P4,000.00).

A Pre-bid Conference shall be held on **July 23, 2002**, 2:00 p.m. at the Conference Room of the Assistant Administrator for Administrative Services, Ground Floor, NIA Bldg., Quezon City.

Bids must be delivered and shall be publicly opened on **August 08, 2002**, 2:00 p.m. at the same venue.

All bids must be accompanied by Bid Security equivalent to at least 2% of the total bid price. Bid Security shall be in the form of Bank Draft/Guarantee/Irrevocable Letter of Credit, Cash, Cashier's Check, MC or any combination thereof.

The NIA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare the bidding a failure or waive any or all informalities or to award such bids to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) MARCELINO V. TUGAOEN, JR.
BAC Chairman

(PDI - June 18 & 27, 2002)

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Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) invites authorized distributors/dealers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the Acquisition of the following Equipment for the Use of the Food Development Center:

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The schedule of bidding activities is as follows:

June 21-28, 2002	Registration/Accreditation of Prospective Bidders
July 8-9, 2002	Notification of Accredited Bidders and Issuance of Bid Documents
July 11, 2002 (10:00 AM)	Pre-bidding Conference
July 26, 2002 (9:00 - 10:00 AM)	Submission of eligibility requirements and bid proposals
(10:15 AM)	Opening of eligibility requirements and bid proposals

Registration/accreditation and eligibility requirements can be secured from and submitted to BAC Secretariat, ODAFA, 7th Floor, Matimyas Building, 101 E. Rodriguez Sr. Avenue, Quezon City. Bidding documents and technical specifications may likewise be secured from BAC Secretariat and the same shall be issued to eligible bidders upon payment of P1,000.00 non-refundable fee.

NFA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY/INFORMALITY OF THE BIDS RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT ONLY SUCH BIDS WHICH ARE ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY.

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Deputy Administrator & BAC Chairman

(PDI – June 20 & 27, 2002)

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Japan conservation bodies cite energy-efficient Nissan engine

By Charles E. Buban

THE AWARD-WINNING Nissan Ecology Oriented performance and Direct Injection engine

FOR ALL the power it packs inside, an engine should still be nature-friendly. One of the main thrusts of vehicle manufacturers nowadays is to come up with an engine that is efficient and doesn't impact much on the environment. These manufacturers have been aware of the so-called greenhouse effect, not to mention the incontrovertible fact that the earth's natural resources will be depleted in the foreseeable future. So it is no wonder that vehicle manufacturers like Nissan, has been conducting research into engines that achieve this end.

When Nissan fitted its diesel-driven models with a ZD30 Neo-Di (Nissan Ecology-Oriented Performance and Direct Injection) Turbo engine, two Japanese conservation bodies took notice and commended Nissan for the engine's revolutionary technology system.

The Agency of National Resources and Energy and the Energy Conservation Center under the Sho-Ene Taisho Program awarded the Energy Conservation Prize to Nissan's Neo-Di diesel engine for its enhanced fuel efficiency and reduced exhaust emission and engine noise.

The conservation bodies cited Nissan technologies like the Modulated Fire (M-Fire) Combustion, which is capable of maintaining quiet performance and fuel efficiency, while reducing exhaust emission and the Variable Nozzle Turbo, an advanced turbo changer design that improves engine response, generating a wealth of power and torque that allows Nissan vehicles to drive on even the most challenging of terrain.

Prestigious honor

The Sho-Ene Taisho Program commends apparatus and systems for residential and commercial use that demonstrated outstanding energy conservation performance and other superior features. A commendation coming from the program is widely recognized and is considered prestigious among the various energy-conservation awards given in Japan.

Candidate products for commendation under this program are judged by a screening committee composed largely of learned individuals who consider not only energy conservation performance, but also contributions to the conservation of natural resources, originality, consumer appeal, environmental protection, safety and other attributes.

The program was established and sponsored by the Energy Conservation Center, Japan in 1990.

Basis for future engine lineup

Nissan has positioned the Neo-Di engine series at the core of its powertrain technology and plans to expand both the Neo-Di gasoline and diesel engine lineups in the future.

UNDER A nissan patrol unit is fuel efficient yet powrful Neo-Di engine

The newly developed Neo-Di diesel engine comes with an in-line 4-cylinder 2.5-liter version and an in-line 4-cylinder 3.0-liter version. Compared with conventional diesel-engine vehicles, the Neo-Di diesel engine improves fuel economy by approximately 40 percent, reduces both CO_2 and NO_x emissions by roughly 30 percent and boosts power output by 5 to 20 percent.

The Nissan engine, particularly the ZD30 Neo-Di Turbo Diesel, employs several technologies namely:

- M-Fire Combustion—This system accomplishes premixed combustion at low temperatures, which resulted from changing the fuel injection timing and applying heavy exhaust gas recirculation (EGR). This makes possible simultaneous reductions of NO_x and soot, which is the cause of black smoke in vehicle exhaust.
- High-pressure Fuel Injection Pump—The adoption of a high-pressure fuel injection pump improves atomization of the fuel spray. This makes the fuel more readily combustible, resulting in greater power output and combustion characteristics that do not tend to form soot.
- Variable Swirl Mechanism—This has been adopted to control the swirl intensity and intake of air quantity. This mechanism stabilizes combustion in the engine speed range of everyday driving by generating strong swirl motion in the combustion chamber. Moreover, in the high-load region, it increases the air quality in the combustion chamber in proportion to the larger amount of injected fuel, thereby accomplishing combustion, which also results to little soot formation.

At present, the Neo-Di engine is fitted into all of Nissan Patrol units exclusively assembled and distributed here in the country by Universal Motors Corp.

The case against 'color coding'

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

THE APPOINTMENT to the Metro Manila Development Authority of the mayor who revoked the "color coding" rule in Marikina boosts the hopes of single car owners. Will MMDA chair Bayani Fernando finally scrap this oppressive and useless rule all over Metro Manila?

"Color coding" refers to the unified vehicle reduction scheme imposed by then MMDA chair Jejomar Binay whereby motor vehicles, depending on the ending number of their license plates, are banned from all Metro Manila roads from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on one day of the workweek. Thus, cars with plate numbers ending in 1 and 2 cannot be used Mondays, those ending in 3 and 4 are banned Tuesdays, 5 and 6 on Wednesdays, 7 and 8 on Thursdays and 9 and 0 on Fridays.

The MMDA's color coding rule was supposed to be a temporary measure to limit the number of vehicles on the road during the time that construction of the Metro Rail Transit on Edsa was slowing down traffic flow. The years have gone by and the Edsa MRT from Taft Avenue in Pasay City to North Avenue in Quezon City has long been fully operational, but color coding is still in effect, unfairly depriving hundreds of thousands of single-car families of the use of their cars.

As a motorist, I can offer three arguments against color coding: 1) it has not really reduced traffic volume; 2) it is oppressive and counterproductive; 3) it increases the perils of motoring and commuting as it distracts traffic cops from enforcing traffic regulations that are key to public safety.

Color coding has not really reduced traffic volume because those who could afford to (and there are many) bought a second car, whether brand-new or used. Color coding boosted the growth of the two-car family market and also the used car market. Delighted car dealers boosted their sales further by launching zero-interest-financing schemes. So, in effect, the cars kept off the road by the color-coding rule were and are being replaced by second cars.

This does not even take into account the hundreds of exemptions granted by the MMDA to friends, relatives, VIPs and those with the right connections. (In some cases, the right connections may mean the right amount of grease money.)

What's more, color coding oppresses and discriminates against families who can afford to buy and maintain only one car. It immobilizes businessmen whose earnings depend on the number of client calls and sales they can make in a day, using their cars to go around. It is counterproductive to the flow of commerce as it grounds delivery and cargo trucks one day of the week. It undermines the nation's energy conservation effort by forcing single-car employees who insist on using their cars on the banned day, to report for work before 7 a.m. and leave past 7 p.m., thus prolonging the use of lights and air-conditioning in their offices or work stations.

Even worse, color coding is such an attractive source of petty graft that many traffic policemen specialize in its exploitation and thereby neglect to enforce more important traffic safety regulations. The most glaring example is the intersection of Edsa and Pasay Road, where MMDA traffic aides are seen at rush hour every afternoon scrutinizing the license plates of cars turning right from Pasay Road onto Edsa toward Magallanes just in case there are any color coding violators.

They are so focused on license plates that bus drivers on the other side of Edsa headed toward Cubao routinely run through the red light and are not apprehended. When these unruly bus drivers and other motorists crossing the Edsa-Pasay Road intersection break traffic regulations—which is often because they know the MMDA cops are preoccupied with their color-coding thing—pedestrians as well as other drivers in the area are placed in danger and an accident is likely to happen. Two weeks ago, a friend of mine was run over at that deadly intersection and although she was seriously injured and crying for help, according to witnesses the MMDA personnel on duty ignored her because it was 4 p.m., the lucrative time slot for catching (and shaking down?) color-coding violators.

On paper, the color-coding scheme looks good but in an urban center like Metro Manila where public transportation facilities are grossly inadequate, it will never work. If traffic policemen would enforce existing traffic regulations as zealously as they enforce the color-coding rule, traffic flow will improve greatly and there would be no need to deprive people of the use of their cars one day of the week. MMDA Chairman Fernando would be doing a great public service by junking this anachronistic and counterproductive scheme.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Real women drive trucks.

* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph

2ND HENRY FORD AWARDS

The pot now sweeter; more categories added

By Tessa R. Salazar

AUTOMOTIVE journalists will have the "ride" of their lives this year as they embark to compete—not on wheels—but in print, online and broadcast at the 2nd Henry Ford Awards.

The search for the winners will fall into not just seven but eight categories, with the Best Auto Innovation/Auto Event Story split in two.

Each category winners will take home P25,000 (for stories not exclusive to Ford) and the special category winner will pocket P35,000 (for Ford exclusive stories). Last year, the cash prizes were P15,000 (nonexclusive to Ford) and P25,000 (Ford exclusive). A total of P235,000 will be up for grabs this year, compared to P100,000 last year shared by six winners.

Other categories are Best Auto Industry Story, Best Published Photograph for Newspaper, Best Published Photograph for Magazine, Best Online Feature and Best Automotive Television Feature and the Best Ford Feature Story.

The Henry Ford Journalism Awards was introduced by Ford Group Philippines to formally recognize the talent and skills of journalists from television and print media and promote excellence in motoring writing.

The Henry Ford Awards is the first automotive writers' awards in the country. Cash prizes are given away in recognition of journalists who have supported the automotive industry by providing consumers with accurate news reports and information.

RPN

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How do I preserve my car's shine?

—Roland Roque of Pampanga

ONE word: Wax. Generally speaking, all new cars come with a clear coat on top of the base layer of paint. Think of waxes as a protective coating for the topcoat finish. Or like a removable clear coat that you can apply repeatedly every couple of weeks. It's advisable to use a clear coat paste wax, usually the carnouba wax.

Now, some people confuse the wax with the polish. Polish is there to actually clean the paint first, and even out the paint to give it a nice, smooth, glossy finish. A wax simply seals in all that shine and protects it from the elements like an invisible layer of paint. A disposable layer, that is. On your next car wash, the soap solution will remove the waxes completely.

Do note that wax is not capable of removing any paint surface defects. It cannot remove scratches or flaws in your paint finish. The only thing that it can do, besides providing a protective coating, is that it literally "fills in" those defects and "hides" them from view—until your next car wash when those scratches inevitably reappear.

As eager as you may be to "lock in" the shine of that new washover (*hilamos*) of yours, resist it. Never wax newly painted panels. A paint job that's less than one-month old is still considered newly painted. Also, never apply wax under direct sunlight.

Another way to preserve your car's shine is to avoid parking it under trees that produce sap, and keep it away from the elements as much as possible. When it's raining, keep your car as clean as possible. Completely ignore the myth that says: if it's going to rain, forget about washing the car. It's probably the best time to keep your car clean because you are preventing the buildup of all that grime from the street that could just stick onto your car beneath a layer of more grime deposited by the rain.

What's happening, Ms Government? Fernando shocker

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

THE ROAD tragedy that struck Metro Manila on Monday should teach us a lesson. From hereon, I hope we'll have more police forces deployed in the metropolis. Seemingly, we are not that safe anymore. In the country or city, life has become cheap somewhat.

What's happening, Ms Government?

The Edsa shootout on Monday between suspected holdupmen and policemen that resulted in one cop dead, not to mention some 12 civilians wounded, sent shivers down the spine of urban dwellers. In broad daylight, bullets were flying in wild abandon, hitting in the process some pedestrians as well as bus passengers.

All this boiled down to one thing: Lawless elements have become that bold because our own lawmen have become less visible.

* * *

There ought to be a scheme of training for our cops designed to deal with suspected criminals being chased in a crowded area like Edsa.

Edsa, whether we like it or not, is now the major hub in the metropolis. Thousands ply this route day in and day out. Criminals like bank robbers, such as those involved in the Monday firefight, can easily use pedestrians and motorists as human shields when they stage their daring crime and when they mount their escape. The ratio should be one cop to a hundred civilians?

Alas, what we only usually see are traffic enforcers from the MMDA, who are really mostly good at staging incomprehensible apprehensions but barely know anything about pursuing criminals and *real* lawbreakers. They seem to have perfected collaring alleged violators of road signs, but never the art of employing instant backup moves to responding lawmen when gun-fueled crimes erupt.

Ah, what's happening, Ms Government?

* * *

Again, if I can get a cheap suit-for-hire, I'll be at the farewell party tonight for Harold Koh, the outgoing president and general manager of General Motors Automobiles Philippines Inc., at the Manila Polo club. I know where to call Suzette Muñoz and Amee Tomboc (RSVP).

Must I also wear a tie, should I materialize tonight, because the dress code says "business attire"?

Meanwhile, let me bid Harold adieu while I welcome aboard James Lim, the new GM boss.

* * *

Caltex has said in an ad that "time is running out," referring to the June 30 deadline given by the City of Manila for Caltex to leave the Pandacan Terminal by that day.

"An ordinance passed by the City of Manila, barely seven months ago, says we can't do business there, anymore," Caltex said.

The ordinance was passed for the obvious reason that city officials believe Caltex has become a security risk in light of terrorist attacks happening worldwide.

It also pains me to see Caltex leaving Pandacan, its home for the past 80 years. You just don't leave home and relocate to another place, particularly if, for four decades, nothing untoward or unpleasant has happened to you in that abode.

I admire the poise that Caltex has put up through that ad. Consider:

"Pandacan gets it to you using pipelines, barges and trucks," said Caltex. "At least 90 percent of the nation's engine oils and lubricants are made there; more than 50 percent of gas and diesel fuels that keep Manila rolling. Twenty-four hours, 7-days a week, Pandacan is Manila's energy pump."

The ad was not adversarial, rather it was friendly. It was not hitting anyone, it was instead super diplomatic.

Here's a glass to class.

* * *

If Bayani Fernando, the new MMDA head, was quoted right, he could be courting disaster.

"Everything you see on the sidewalks, even the trees," he said in answer to a question of what to remove as obstacles to the smooth flow of traffic in the metropolis.

"They are blocking the way of pedestrians," he said. "They are blocking the way to safety."

A shocker, if you ask me.

Since when are trees considered traffic blockers? Do we have trees in the middle of our streets? None. What we have are a lot of MMDA traffic enforcers not really enforcing traffic laws.

Left and right, you see drivers of jeepneys and buses breaking road signs in full view of traffic cops/enforcers. They look the other way each time a jeepney stops on areas where "no loading/unloading signs" are found.

Why? The answer is obvious: *kotong* (grease money).

* * *

Here's to16-year-old Don Thomas Pastor of Team T.E.C. for winning the SVI Challenge Cup first leg at the Subic International Raceway. With his victory via a sweep, Pastor became one of the youngest winners in local circuit racing. His tutor, Edgen Dy-Lliaco, must be very proud.

I have also raised my glass to Rubens Barrichello for winning the European Grand Prix on Sunday, beating his Ferrari teammate Michael Schumacher.

Must I also salute Ferrari's owners for not meddling in the race this time? Remember, last time out, Barrichello was ordered by Ferrari's owners to give his victory to Schumacher in Austria—a move that drew flak and put to bad light the motives of Ferrari.

But to me, Barrichello's victory did not detract from the truth—that Ferrari besmirched the reputation of Formula 1 with that unpopular decision to prevent Barrichello from winning a legitimately won race.

* * *

Lastly, I wish Honda Cars Makati all the best in its endeavor to stage the 1st HCMI Golf Classic on July 5 at The Riviera in Silang, Cavite. A brand-new CR-V 2002 is at stake as a hole-in-one prize.

MOTORING

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

'Sibling rivalry' gathers steam around Mayon

By Tessa R. Salazar

PUNCTUATED by treks to the boiling lake at Manito, the cold, clear cascading waters of Vera Falls, and the rugged grandeur of Mayon Volcano, the introduction by Isuzu Philippines Corp. of the Crosswind XUV's younger sibling, Crosswind XTRM, was highlighted by a tour around the province of Albay.

More than P40,000 cheaper than its XUV sister, XTRM—the entry-level sport version of the Isuzu Crosswind—boasts of being an AUV brute machine. It is, however, a downgraded version of the XUV. Its down-to-earth looks could make you drive it on nature trips and on off-road adventures more than its flashier sister.

Unlike its candy-colored sibling that could put Cindy Lauper's outfits to shame, the XTRM sports more conservative colors: spruce green, alpine white or steel black that would blend better with its natural surroundings. It has no grill guard nor fog lamps. It has a spare tire mounted at the backdoor, sans the cover. The roof rail is also removed.

The XTRM's interior is also conservative. But don't say the XTRM can't be like its sister. You can always buy accessories to make your XTRM look like the XUV. The IPC's Ignite Genuine Accessories now makes available original equipment manufacturer's accessories. To enhance the XTRM's appearance are spare-tire covers, bumper overriders (different design from the XUV, but looks almost the same) and then there's more.

The roof rail is also available, but unlike the XUV's roof rails that are bolted and designed to carry the maximum safe load of 30 kg, the XTRM's roof rails are "glued" on and are used more as decor.

The XTRM hugs the ground closer at 1.84 meters, as opposed to the XUV, which stands 1.89 meters. In comparison, Isuzu's luxury SUV Trooper stands 1.9 meters tall.

Unlike the XUV's steering wheel, shift knob, handbrake, handle, and horn pad wrapped in leather and stitched in color, the XTRM sports a more conservative interior with moquette vinyl combinations.

If the XUV has a CD tuner, the XTRM has its cassette tuner, which can be expandable to a CD tuner later on. The speakers are the same.

The IPC doesn't make a big deal of the differences, though. In fact, it is marketing both as do-it-all multiterrain, multipurpose "extreme utility vehicles" able to go anywhere short of using 4x4s. Both are also powered by 4-cylinder OHV direct injection diesel engines.

The XUV DS automatic transmission is priced at P849,000, while the XTRM AT and manual go for P809,000 and P769,000 respectively.

THE XTRM poses with its XUV sisters and Trooper cousins at the Cagsawa Ruins. Behind is the shy Mayon hiding in the clouds.

CHARLES BUBAN

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LIFESTYLE
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Goodbye, Doreen

By Chelo Banal-Formoso

IT is with deep sorrow that we inform our Taste readers that our esteemed columnist and friend Doreen Fernandez passed away Monday at the New York Presbyterian Hospital. She was 67.

We are still running her column because before she left for New York last month, she left us a packet of columns to cover the month of June and first week of July. I suspect she sent them so that the readers would not miss the column while she was away. After this column, next week's will be her last.

Whatever are we to do now without Doreen? For us, she wrote not just about food but its histories and nuances, its creation and fusion, its dramas and aromas. Each week, barring the weeks when she got very sick and was hospitalized early this year, she submitted even before her deadline literary exercises on restaurants classy and joints honky-tonk, on exotic fruits in season, on how to tackle a buffet, on her Chinatown discoveries, on delis and their fantastic inventories, and on shedhouse canteens in Leyte or dried fish stalls in

GOODBYE/ p.C5

Again, the sun rises

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

ITS devotees missed the restaurant called Soleil when building plans changed; they will certainly rejoice that it has been reborn like a phoenix, now as Soleil Café Moderne at Greenbelt 2 (Ayala Center, Makati City; tel. 757-3600/3599).

Barely 2 weeks old when we visited, with the stage and spotlights of the building launch (the night before) still being cleared away, unannounced and unheralded, it was in full swing, with old and new patrons passing by and dropping in or claiming their reserved tables.

Chef David Pardo is the central figure, and has brought with him from the old place such dishes as the Buffalo Mozzarella Salad with Grapes and Anchovies and the Chilean Sea Bass with Potato Purée and Madeira Mushroom Broth. The basic change, however, is that this is a café, a brasserie, with all-day dining (11 a.m.-2 p.m.). Food prices are extremely reasonable (main courses range from P110 for Croque Monsieur to P620 for Soleil Bass).

Family approach

The menu is still basically classic French, but with a "Filipino family approach." The centerfold lists the entrées, mostly hearty and meant to be shared: Meat and Poultry on one side, Seafood on the other, and below them Side Dishes, Burgers and Sandwiches (including a Foie Gras Burger and Tuna Burger with garlic créme fraiche), and the Daily Carving (P320 inclusive of Soup du Jour) which ranges from roast leg of lamb with garlic and herbs to homemade pastrami, Gammon Ham, roast pork saddle and Beef Daube.

The side panels bear more delights to precede or add on to the above: Starters like Les Tapas Francaise (eggplant caviar, Parmesan *pistou*, anchovy and tomato relish) and Escargots Bourguignon; a shellfish selection including juicy Aklan Oysters (Baked Rockefeller, with Mignonette or Cocktail trip, or with Tomato Tarragon Fondue); salads, soups, and finally, cocktails, wines by the glass and shakes, and a procession of desserts, coffees and teas and digestives.

AGAIN/ p.C4

The Maya Kitchen
CULINARY ARTS CENTER

BUDGET MEALS & BUDGET SAVERS

There's much rushing and bustling again at home now that the school year has started. Housewives and working mothers are again busy preparing for their children's baon. Fortunately, The Maya Kitchen Culinary Arts Center has come up with classes that will greatly help tender, loving and caring moms cook quick and nutritious budget meals that are great for baon or packed lunches. The recipes in these classes are not only quick and easy to prepare but also budget saving, which is also helpful in stretching the family's finances. Check out the schedules listed below.

Tofu Meals: June 29 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Tofu Teriyaki, Tofu Wakame Salad, Fried Tofu, Tofu Balls, Tofu Burger Steak, Tofu Shake (dessert). P650
Plain and Fancy Doughnuts: June 29 (Sat) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Learn a dozen variation (Strawberry, Banana, Pineapple, Butterscotch, Chocolate). Bonus: Bichu Bichu. P650
Lumpia Lumpia: July 6 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lumpia ala Cubana, Shrimp & Garlic Gambas, Fish Fillet, Korean Beef, Guinatan Lumpia (Dessert). P650
Cookies & Bars: July 6 (Sat) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Chocolate Chips, No-roll Sugar Cookies, Lemon Squares, Assorted Refrigerator Cookies, Crinkles. P650
Food to Go: July 13 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Morcon, Relleno, Chinese Fresh Lumpia, assorted Siomai, Quekiam, Embutido. P750
Bakery & Bakeshop: July 13 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Commercial methods used in preparing breads, pies and cakes including costing, production batching with actual hands-on. P1,500
Bake & Sell Snacks: July 13 (Sat) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Empanada (fried and baked), Garlic Beef Muffins, Chicken Tarts, Sausage Pie, Mini Calzone, Stuffed Pizza. P750
Japanese Cooking: July 20 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Miso Soup, Mixed Tempura, Sukiyaki, Kamameshi, assorted Sushi: Kappamaki, Tekamaki, California Maki and Nigiri. P800
Pinoy Breads: July 20 (Sat) 1:30 - 5 p.m. Ensaymada, Spanish Bread, Pandesal, Mongo Loaf, Monay, Cinnamon Rolls, Cheese Bread. P650
Catering: July 27 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Portion Control, Costing, Inventory, Table Layout & Equipment Sourcing with actual preparation of popular catering dishes. Morcon, Galantina, Pork Asado, Soy Chicken, Roast Pork, Baked Macaroni, All Meat Paella and special Gulaman dessert. P1,500.

CERTIFICATE COURSES (Pre-registration required)

Cooking I (Basic) For Messmen, Stewards and Beginners: July 2 - 5 or 16 - 19 (T - F) 1:30 - 5:00 p.m. Basic food preparation, cooking methods for vegetables, pasta, meats and poultry dishes; Techniques of de-boning chicken and fish; Basic garnishing; Table setting and napkin folding; Actual preparation of popular Filipino and Oriental dishes. P2,200
Cooking II (Comprehensive Cooking) For Career Cooks: July 10 - 12 or 24 - 26 (W - F) 8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Coverage: menu planning, standard techniques of preparing stocks, soups, sauces, dressings, salads, main dishes, homemade cold cuts, etc. applicable to 1001 recipes including plate and platter presentation. Free lunch. P2,500
Baking I (Basic): July 10 - 12 or 24 - 26 (W - F) 1:30 p.m. - 5 p.m. Hands-on techniques in preparing basic pie crust, different types of cakes, quick bread, yeast breads and more. P2,000
Cake Decorating (Basic): July 20 & 27 (Sat) 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Lecture-workshop on fundamentals of cake decorating; coloring, designing, template, icing (boiled, butter, caramel, chocolate, sugar icing); basic boarders, jelly lettering, basic flower making and bunching and motif. Free decorating tips. P2,000

For reservations and inquiries,
visit the Maya Kitchen at the 8th Floor, Liberty Building, A. Arnaiz Ave. (Pasay Road), Makati City
or call tels. 892-1185 or 892-5011 loc. 108 (Tues. - Sat.); or e-mail us at *mayakitchen@pacific.net.ph*

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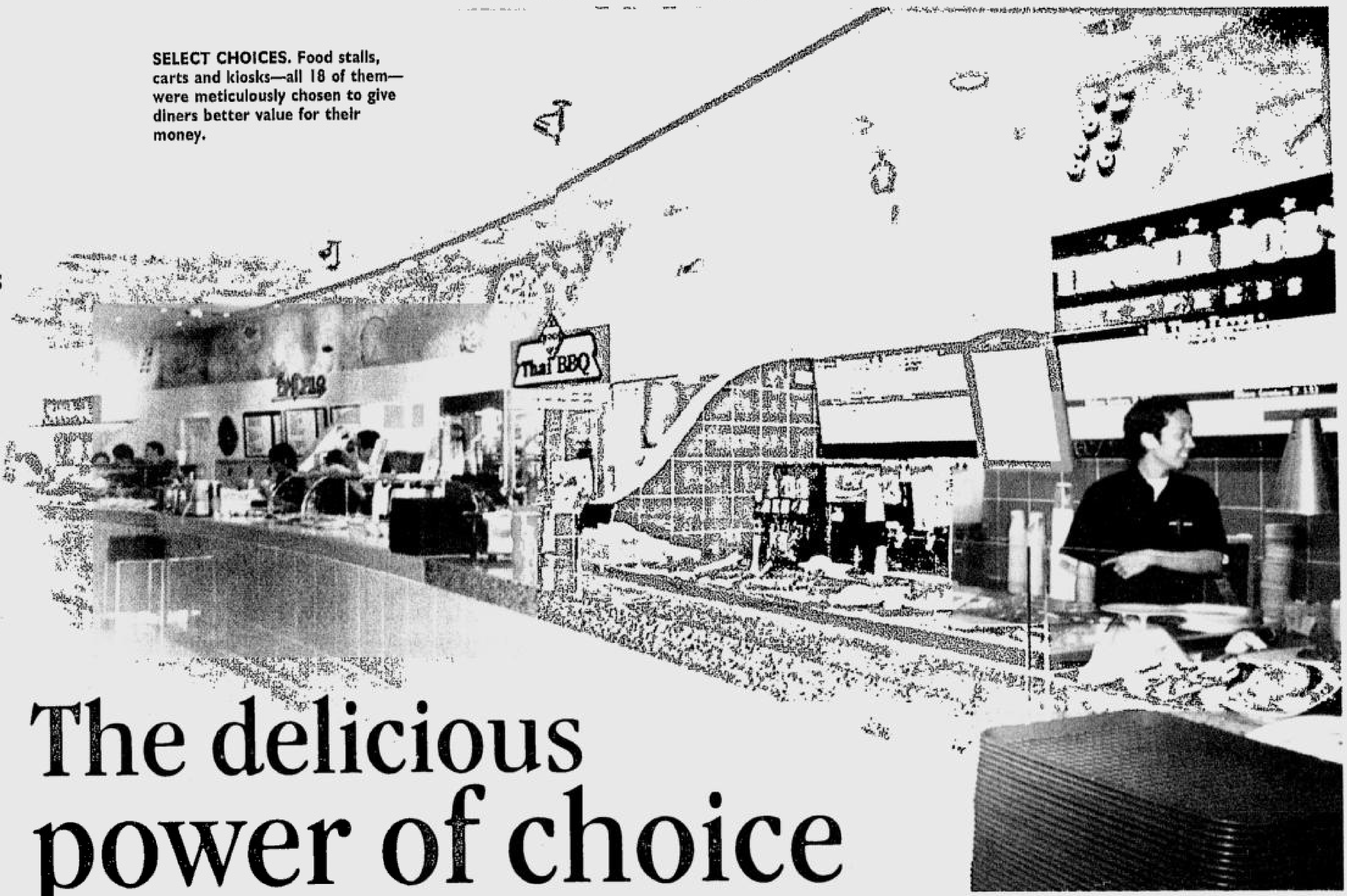
PATIENT FIRST MEDICAL CENTER, 3F Mercury Bldg., Glorietta, MKL
HEALTHWAY MEDICAL CLINIC, 2nd Flr. Festival Supermall (Plaza Forest Entrance)
• 3rd Flr. The Plaza Bldg., Greenbelt Shopping Centre, MKL
CEBU HOLDINGS, Suite 505 Cebu Business Park, Ayala Center, Cebu City
PAMPANGA LABORATORY CLINIC, Gapan Olongapo Rd., Front of Carworld, San Fernando Pampanga
DAVAO BRANCH, Chardin Davao, Florentine Bldg., A. Bonifacio St., Davao City, 8000
ALL CLIENTS ARE SCHEDULED BY APPOINTMENT

Not so fast! Greenbelt's Food Choices offers a refreshing departure from the usual chop-chop of fast-food fare



SELECT CHOICES. Food stalls, carts and kiosks—all 18 of them—were meticulously chosen to give diners better value for their money.

The delicious power of choice

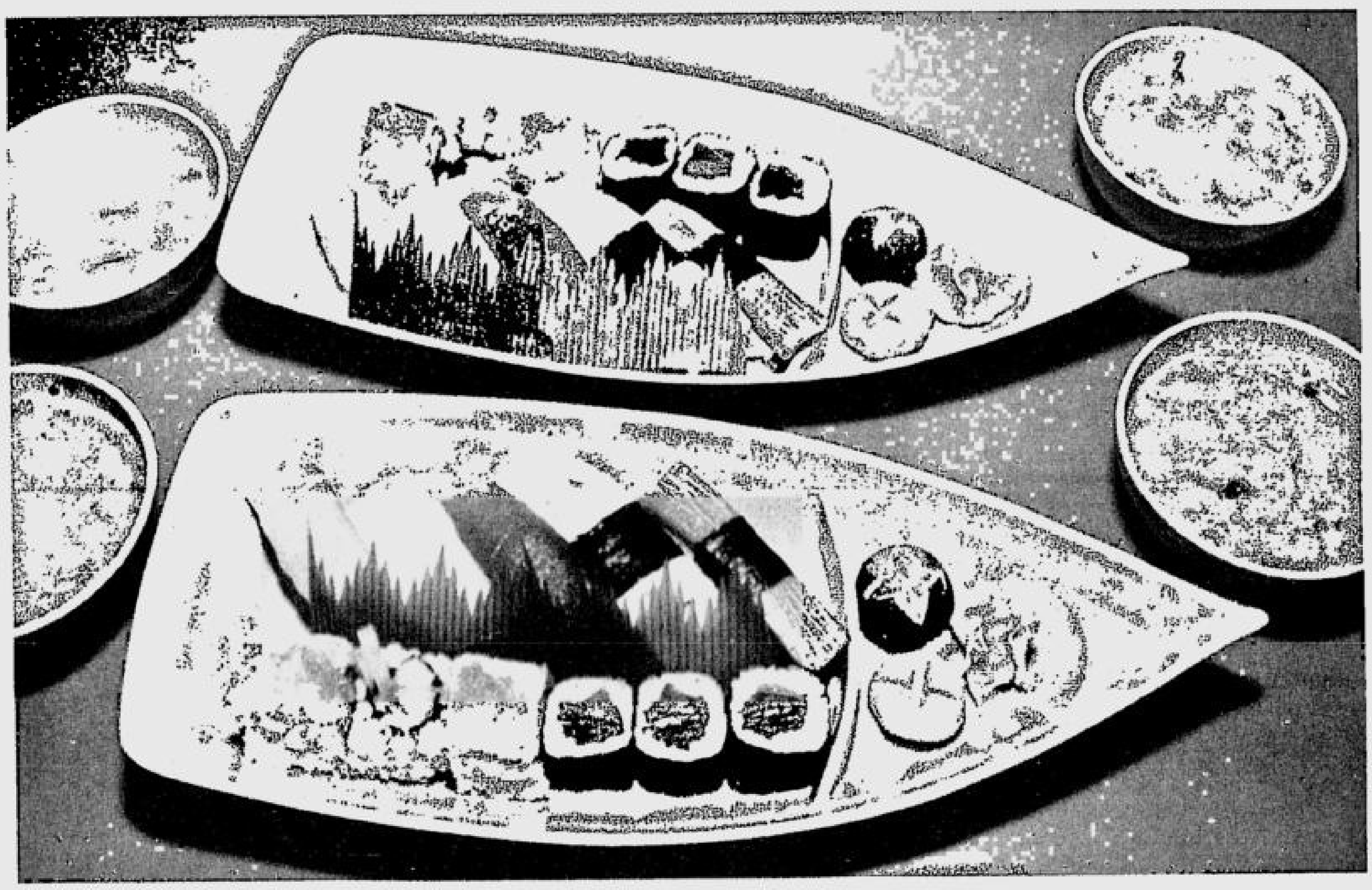
From page C8

etc., Taqueria Chilanga (Mexican), Pazzo Gelato (Italian ice cream and shakes), I Love Cakes, Sabrett (hotdog bar), Matahari (Indonesian) and Blue Bar (fresh fruit shakes and alcoholic beverages). Yes, Food Choices is the only food court that serves affordable cocktail drinks, with upcoming bartending shows to boot. Or, go sip that Kiwi Daiquiri, relax and enjoy while a live band dishes out jazz, acoustic, Latino or chill-out music.

For the month of June, Symphony at G performs every Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 7-11 p.m. No pop and rock music, please. Smooth music allows diners to experience a relaxed and laid-back feeling that would otherwise be expensive in some fancy restaurants.

"We are still looking into other forms of entertainment for our diners in the coming months," says Regina Ignacio, operations manager for ALI Food Court Co. Inc. But one thing's for sure, Greenbelt Food Choices is a dining and entertainment place. Gone are the days when you have to pay an arm and a leg to witness a chef whip up his or her magic in the kitchen. Selected restaurants will feature show cooking in the future.

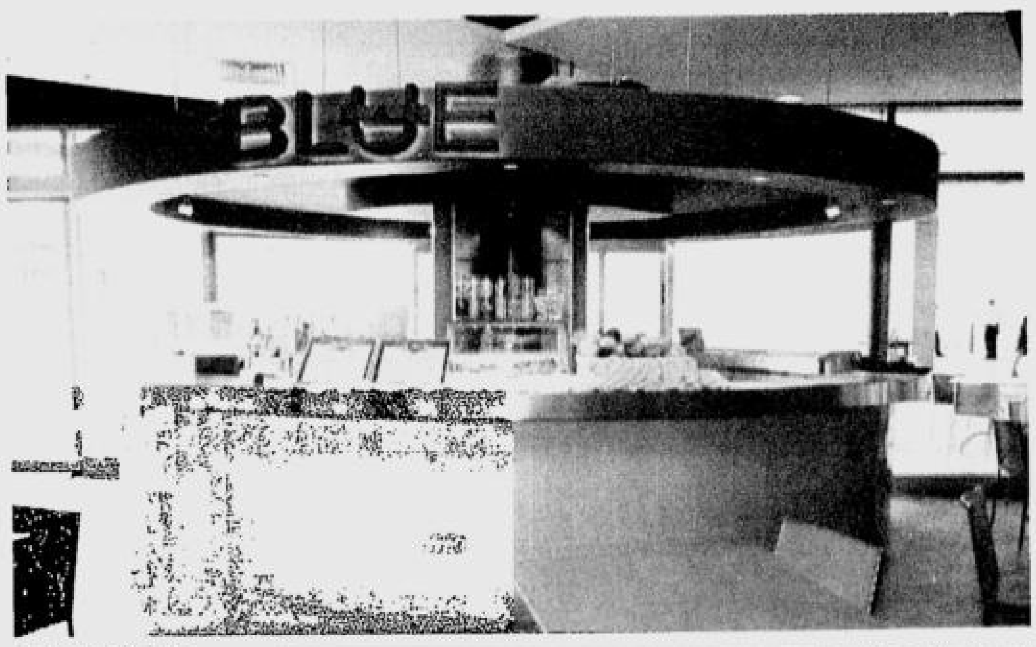
E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph



ASSORTED sushi and maki by Shin Kanzen

MATAHAR
Indonesian
Asean
Opens June

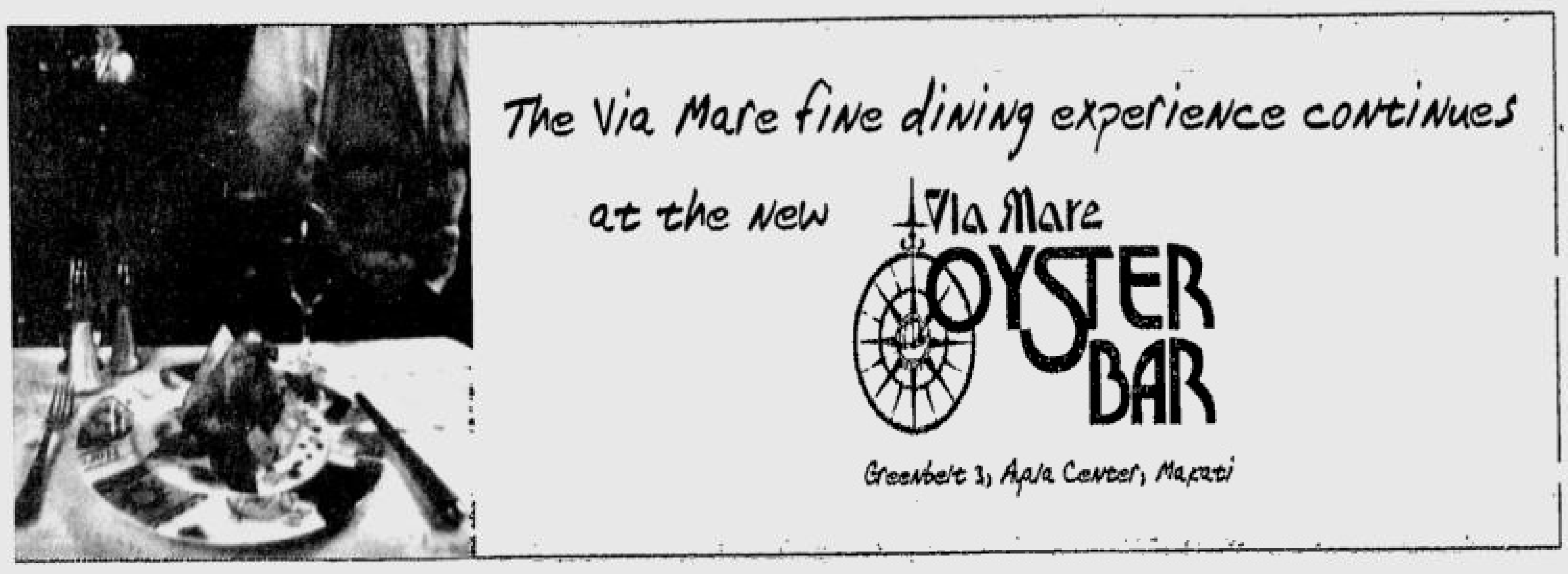
INDONESIAN snacks from Matahari



THE BLUE BAR serves cocktails and beers.

DESSERTS by I Love Cakes

ITALIAN ice creams and shakes by Pazzo Gelato


The Via Mare fine dining experience continues
at the new Via Mare OYSTER BAR
Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati

Coca-Cola
Coca-Cola

HUNDREDS of revelers partied to Manila's reggae band, Brownman Revival.

"**MARDI** Gras Street Party" at SM City Cebu

Everyday is fiesta time in Cebu

CEBUANOS recently took to the streets when the Fiesta Strip was launched at SM City Cebu with a Mardi Gras Street Party. Hundreds of revelers partied to Manila's reggae heartthrobs, the Brownman Revival as well as Cebu's hottest bands—Who's Next, Stagecrew, Live Wire, Kenosis, Cattski, SRO, Pure Souls and Centerfold.

The festivities had a carnival air with body painting, henna tattoo and body piercing booths. And true to party form, revelers stayed on till the wee hours of the morning.

The new Fiesta Strip celebrates good food and great times with its row of trendy restaurants and stores. Located at the upper ground level of SM City Cebu, it has since become the coolest place to dine out with the family or chill with friends. Restos at the strip include homegrown Cebuano outlets like Sunburst and Oh!Grille Steakhouse and Grill.

Sunburst is well-known for its chicken dishes and other house specialties like Rice Noodles and Mixed Vegetables, Chicken Liver and Gizzard, Chicharon, and Empanadas. Oh!Grille, meanwhile, has Juicy steaks and sizzling dishes like Baby Back Ribs, Porterhouse Steals, and Sizzling Squid Sisig.

Kool Planet is a trendy take on old fashioned ice cream and soda parlors with cool delights like their Ice Castle Tower, Banana Split, and the popular Halo-Halo. Or join the café crowd at Bo's Coffee Club, and bond with friends over a cup of Cappucino, Cafe Mocha, Forccino, or Tsatea.

Nine Ball's world class billiard tables and cue sticks, cutting edge interiors, cool music, and delicious food make it a great place for (billiard) table talk.

The Fiesta Strip is located at the upper G/L SM City Cebu.

Sunburst
Sunburst

SUNBURST, Cebu's favorite chicken house

HANG out with buddies at the Nine Ball Billiards.

FEAST on Oh!Grille's juicy steaks and other sizzling specialties at SM City Cebu's Fiesta Strip.

Singapore flavors to bring home

VISITORS to Singapore will soon be able to bring home a taste of Singapore, literally.

Developed under the Singapore Premium Food Gift Program, this innovative series of top quality food products, specially designed to entice visitors, gives a new spin to the souvenir market.

The Productivity and Standards Board (PSB) and the Singapore Tourism Board (STB) have worked together with four leading manufacturers: Addpower Ventures, Bee Cheng Hiang Foodstuff, Food Marketing Services and Sin Hwa Dee Foodstuff Industries to find ways to package Singapore flavors for travelers and expand their markets.

For this pilot phase, seven local favorites—from barbecued pork, pork floss, chicken-rice mix and crispy Pulau Ubin prawn snacks—are showcased. These premium food products use choice ingredients and are developed with advanced technology and attractive package.

Lee Suan Hiang, PSB's chief executive, said, "This initiative is in line with PSB's twin strategies to help local food manufacturers—firstly, for domestic market-oriented companies to upgrade their capabilities to reach export quality standards and secondly, to further build up the capabilities of our food exporters and move into higher-value products to increase their export markets."

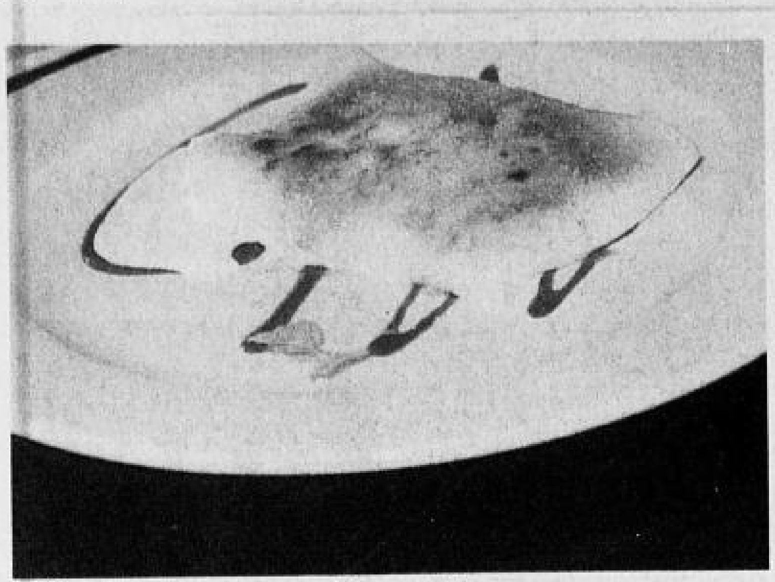
STB provided support under the Tourism Development Assistance Scheme, for the packaging of the food items to suit the travelling public. The STB saw potential in the project as another way to reinforce Singapore's epicurean paradise reputation.

The food gifts will be priced from S$15 to S$85. Locals and visitors can purchase the food gifts at DFS at Millennia Walk and Changi Airport (Terminal Two) and selected NTUC outlets: Liberty Supermarket, Marina Square, Jurong Point, Tampines and Terminal One.

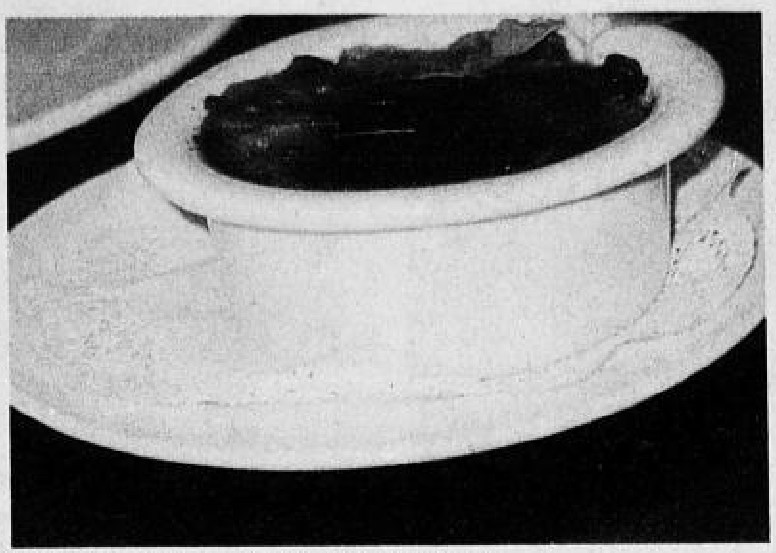
PSB commissioned Temasek Polytechnic to conduct a survey in 1999 on the potential of the tourist food gift market. From the survey of 1,000 respondents, it was revealed that Asian visitors are more likely to buy food gifts and are willing to double their food gift spending from S$25 to S$50.

PSB and STB will review the consumer response to the pilot phase and develop more Singapore food gifts if the results are good.

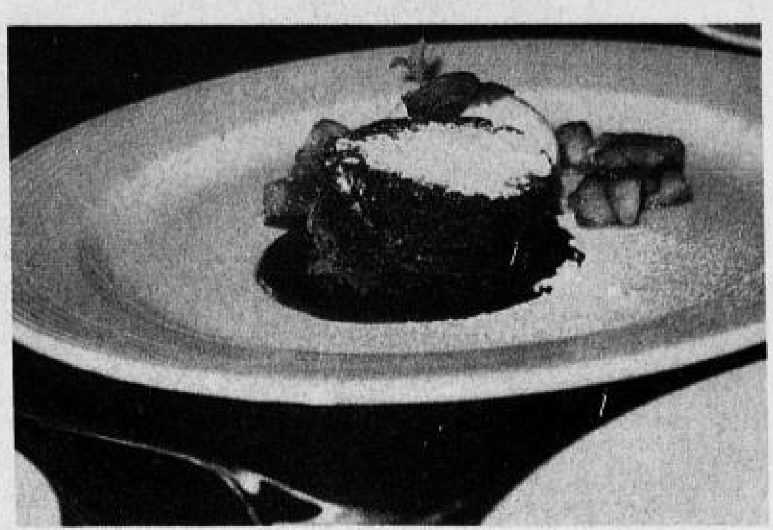
NEW!
MEATBALL
Spaghetti
Tikman ang bagong langhap-sarap. May kakagat-kagat na meatballs at katakam-takam na meat sauce.
Langhap-Sarap sa Jollibee
bee happy



CRÊPE Flambé with mango and coconut liqueur



WHITE chocolate cognac-infused Crème Brulée



CHOCOLATE Soufflé Cake with caramel bananas and vanilla ice cream

Again, the sun rises

From page C1

Soleil Café Moderne has a basically French menu designed with the Filipino family in mind so the servings are hearty and meant to be shared

Added with pride

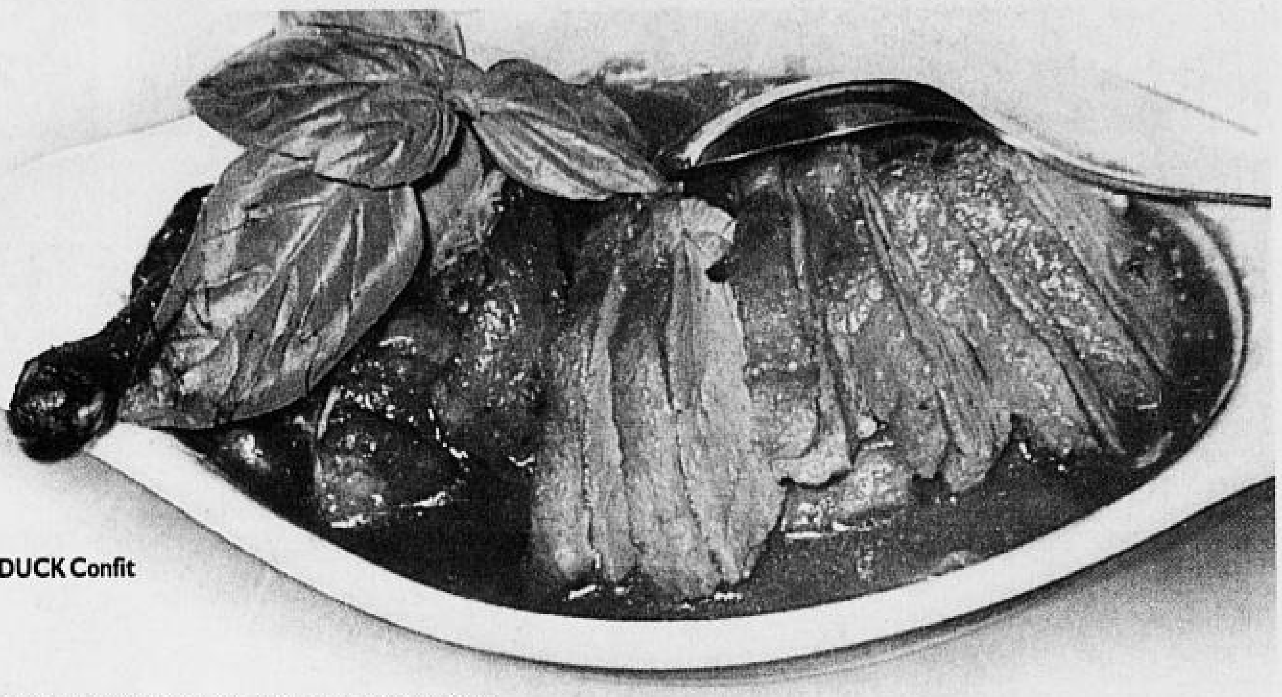
I asked Chef David what he had added to the new menu that made him especially proud, and he said Bouillabaisse, described on the menu as "Mediterranean Seafood soup with Garlic-infused Saffron Foam and Rouille." I had to have it, of course, but we left the rest of the menu in his hands, saying, "We trust you completely."

And so we had a mini-*degustation*. First the oysters, which reminded us of what Felipe Fernandez-Armesto (in "Food: A History," 2001) called "the full, true oyster moment": "Unless you discard the utensils, raise the half-shell to your mouth, throw back your head, scrape the creature from its lair with your teeth, taste its briny juice, and squelch it slightly against the palate before swallowing it alive, you deprive yourself of a historic experience."

Then a peaceful, easeful warm salad of fresh, baby spinach leaves with egg and croutons and a warm bacon vinaigrette. The soup was the Potage Pistou, colored orange (carrots), green (vegetables) and deep green (a fresh basil infusion, and most comforting).

Despite that, I still had the Bouillabaisse and it was lovely: palely saffron-colored and flavored, with seafood notes from the shrimp, little clams, giant mussels and the vari-textured fish, and accents from the garlic. All the people who live in communities by the sea express their joy in soups like this: *bouillabaisse* in Marseilles and other Mediterranean cities; *cioppino* in Italy; *sopa* or *zarzuela de mariscos* in Spain; fish and prawn *sinigang* in Philippine provinces. It is an obeisance to the god of the sea.

CHEF David Pardo

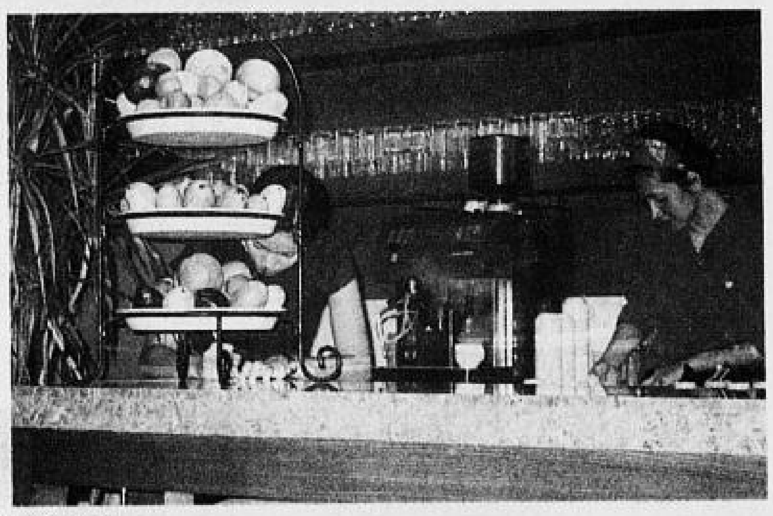


DUCK Confit

Violet and Chita could not praise the Crispy Duck Confit enough—its orange glaze, its layer of succulent skin and fat, its tenderness. Winnie, our noodle devotee, was happy with the Macaroni du Mer, assorted seafood pasta baked with citrus *velouté*. Despite present contentment, we were looking out as well for future joys: Alsatian Charcuterie Platter, Coque au Vin, Rainbow Trout Grenobloise, Lamb Navarin a l'Indienne. And surely that Foie Gras Burger.

Attractive

We shared three desserts: the old Soleil favorite, Chocolate Soufflé Cake with caramel bananas and vanilla ice cream; a white chocolate cognac-infused Crème Brulée with a



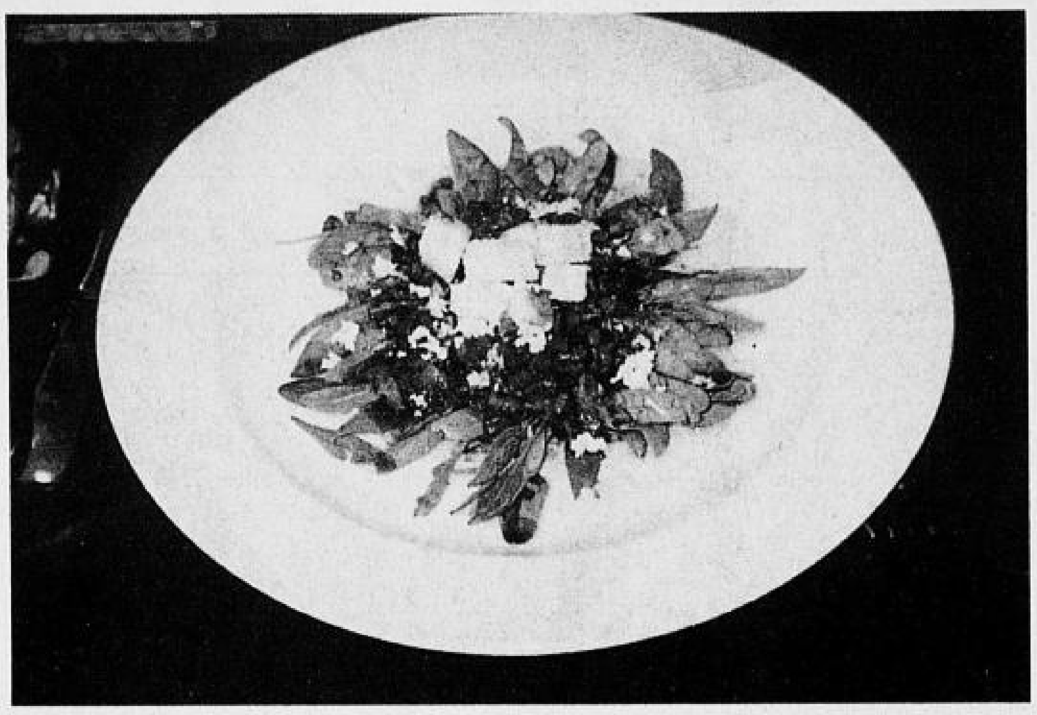
THE BAR

BOUILLABAISSE

satisfyingly glass-like glaze; and Crêpe Flambé filled with mango and coconut liqueur.

Soleil Café Moderne is an attractive place: 120 seats, 50 upstairs on the mezzanine, where the tables bear cloths; 70 downstairs; and more on the terrace outside. The owners (Chef David, Chef Markus and Glenn Garcia) call its cuisine "classic French cuisine with contemporary accents." Its new home, Greenbelt 2, is part of a complex that will include 16 restaurants, and eventually shops and movie theaters as well.

It is not *luxe*, not formal; it is casual and easy (reservations are recommended, though, even in these months of soft opening). Most importantly, service is excellent, the Soleil/Sun symbol brings light into the restaurant concept and the diner's mind, and the food is good.



WARM Spinach Salad

Goodbye, Doreen

From page C1

Cebu or the delicacies of her beloved Silay.

A recent column on mangoes, for instance, prompted one reader to e-mail from New Jersey:

"I was salivating as I read this—my palate remembering the tartness of peeled, halved, seeded *pajo* (the bigger ones—the ones that conveniently fit inside the palm of one's hand) with *bagoong* in the seed cavity—eaten like a sandwich—surreptitiously at choral lessons—prompting the Italian nun to exclaim: 'Who is eating something that smells like hell!' (Come to think of it—how would she know what hell smells like?) To us, the taste and smell were closer to heaven!

"Thanks for this wonderfully evocative article—like Proust's madeleines—the thought, smell, taste of mangoes—ripe or green—bring back nostalgic memories. But nothing available here in Jersey can compare or satiate the yearning!"

Doreen always looked beyond the food; she once commented about how a restaurant looked "worn at the seams" even the menu was "dog-eared and stained." But when the restaurant opened another branch she was quick to concede that this one was bright and sparkling, its restrooms "A1. Spotless, all systems working, all supplies present—and a potted plant accenting the gleaming beige interiors."

Although her column was highly popular, she managed to remain gracious. She took time to visit out-of-the-way restaurants and bring back a refreshing report on, say, Ernest Santiago's place in Pagsanjan.

She was never mean. We could tell she didn't like a restaurant she visited only from the lack of lilt in her prose. We knew she liked the food when her words came out like a caress. When she didn't, there was much she ignored and she tended to be brief, as she did when she recently wrote about a restaurant in Libis.

I always despaired about the pictures she took for her columns—her focus was always on the food itself that she never took notice of the dish it was served in, or that there was a fork buried in there that didn't look quite photogenic. I offered to send a photographer if she would just let my assistant know where and when. "That would be good," she said in her girlish voice the last time we saw each other.

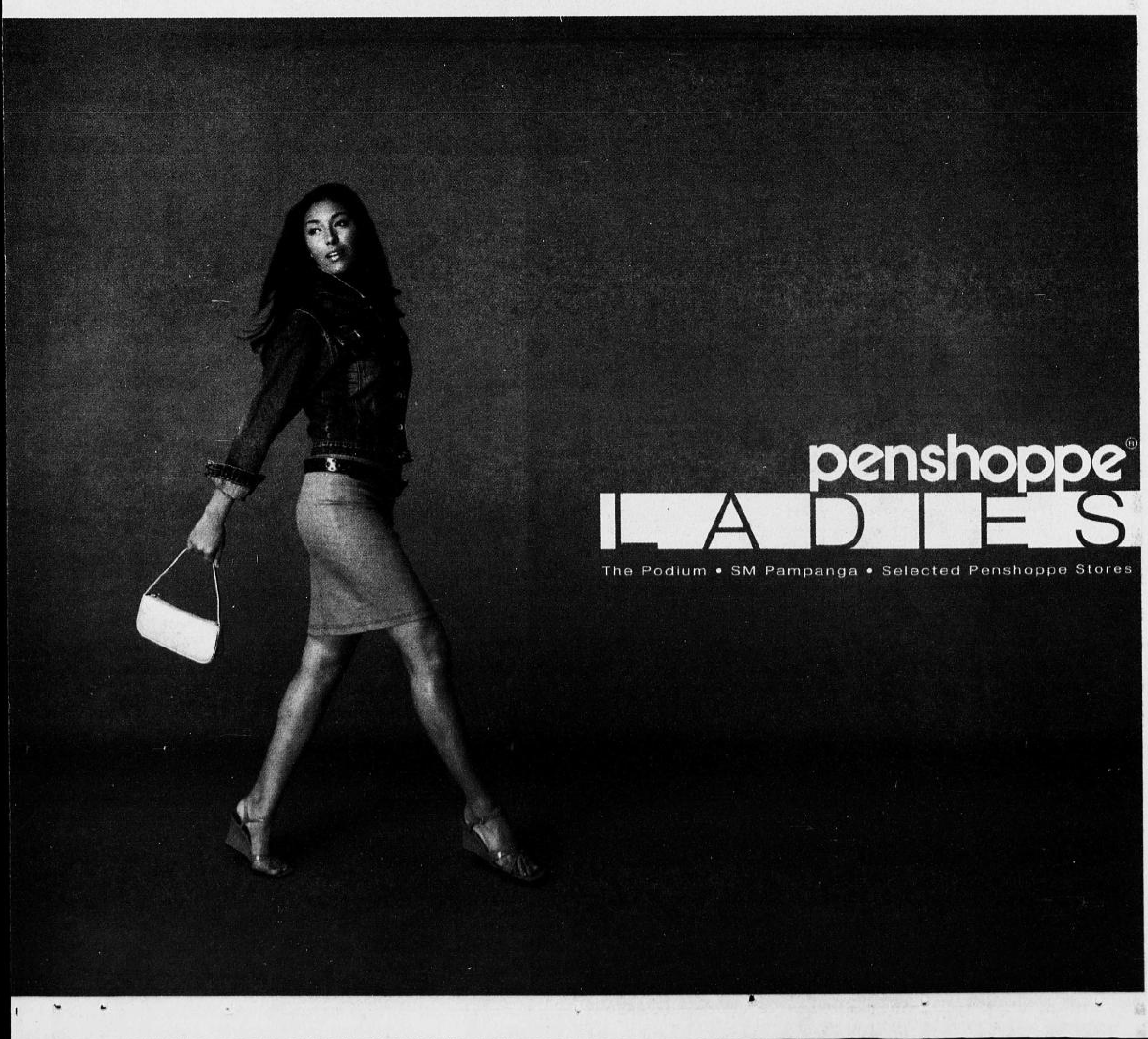
When she left the packet of her June columns, she was her prompt and good self. "Although I have assigned dates, you are of course free to use them when you please, as convenient," she e-mailed in her usual grace. She noticed that sometimes we had themes for the food section and offered to write columns that went with the theme if we would advise her in advance.

ON A FOOD trip with chefs and other food writers, Doreen samples the *lechon*.

LECTURING on *bangus* at a food fair abroad

Other columnists who aren't worth the paper they're printed on don't meet their deadlines, refuse to be edited, raise hell when their columns don't come out on the expected date; they have a lot to learn from our columnist who wrote and lived her life in good taste.

I am certain the night Doreen died was a warm summer's night, one that was made for a good flight up to the heavens. And when she got there the angels and the saints must have been beside themselves welcoming her, offering up the best entrée in the house, all the signature dishes on the menu, the ones that would inspire Doreen to whip up such lines as "Go to it then. Inhale the aroma. Sip the broth... Enjoy the power and the grace." Back here we, mere mortals, can only weep for our loss and nestle the memories of such an inspiring, incredible woman in our hearts.



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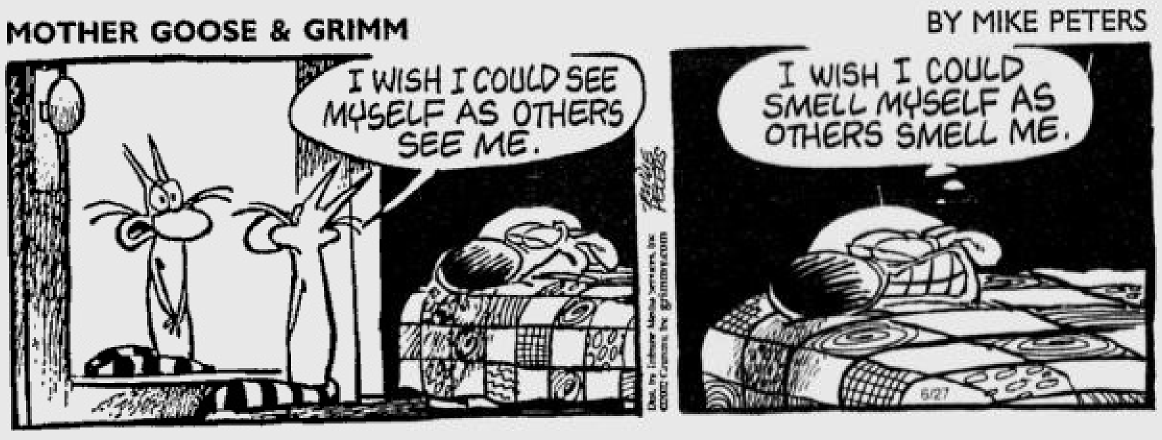
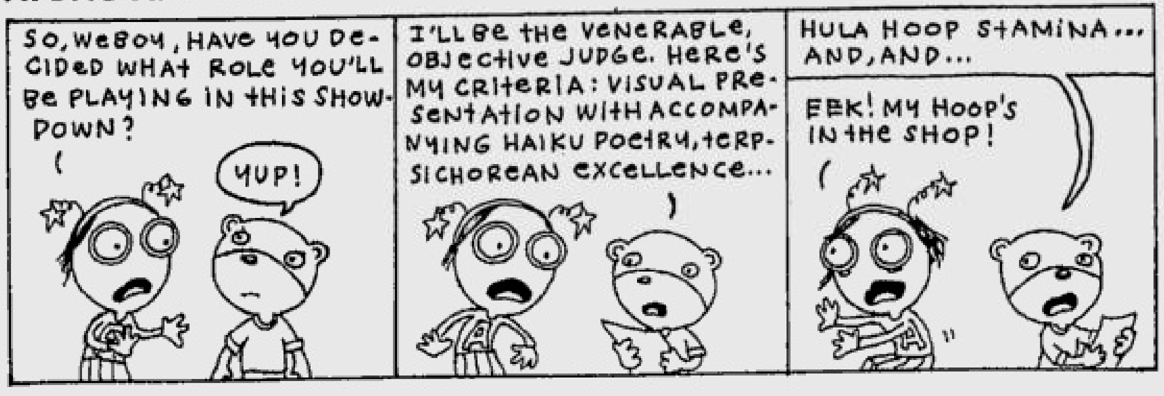
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


I WISH I COULD SEE MYSELF AS OTHERS SEE ME.
I WISH I COULD SMELL MYSELF AS OTHERS SMELL ME.
6/27

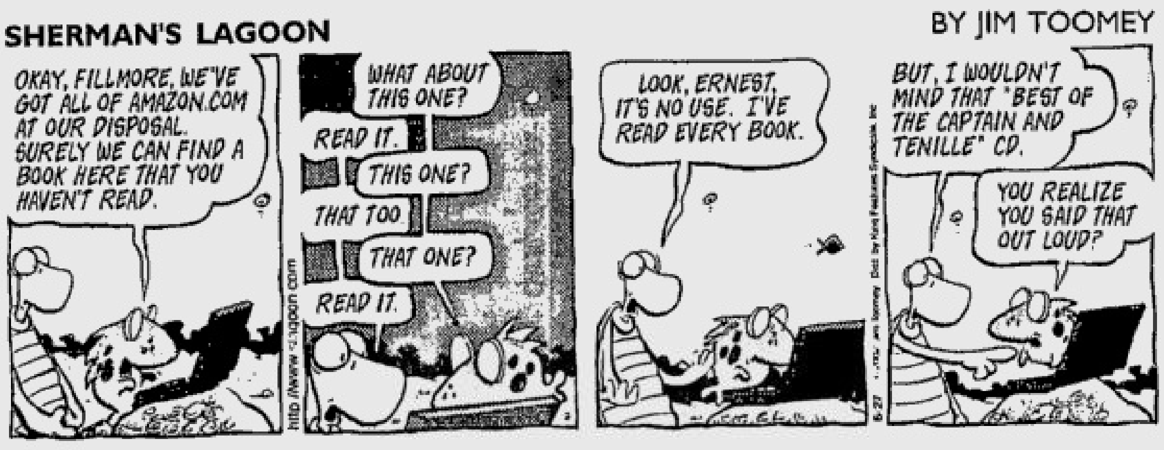
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


SO, WEBOY, HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT ROLE YOU'LL BE PLAYING IN THIS SHOWDOWN?
YUP!
I'LL BE THE VENERABLE, OBJECTIVE JUDGE. HERE'S MY CRITERIA: VISUAL PRESENTATION WITH ACCOMPANYING HAIKU POETRY, TERPSICHOREAN EXCELLENCE...
HULA HOOP STAMINA... AND, AND...
EEK! MY HOOP'S IN THE SHOP!

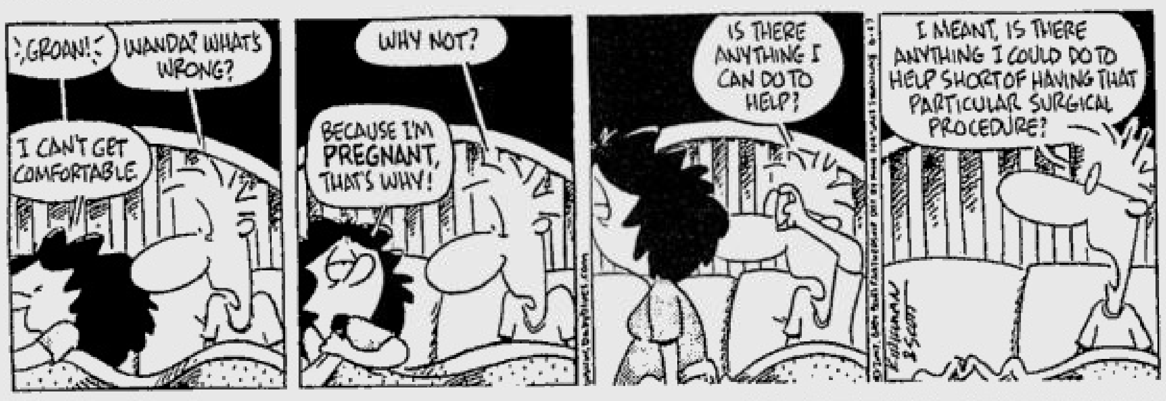
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


OKAY, FILLMORE, WE'VE GOT ALL OF AMAZON.COM AT OUR DISPOSAL. SURELY WE CAN FIND A BOOK HERE THAT YOU HAVEN'T READ.
WHAT ABOUT THIS ONE?
READ IT.
THIS ONE?
THAT TOO.
THAT ONE?
READ IT.
LOOK, ERNEST, IT'S NO USE. I'VE READ EVERY BOOK.
BUT, I WOULDN'T MIND THAT "BEST OF THE CAPTAIN AND TENILLE" CD.
YOU REALIZE YOU SAID THAT OUT LOUD?
http://www.slagoon.com
6-27

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


GROAN!
WANDA? WHAT'S WRONG?
I CAN'T GET COMFORTABLE.
WHY NOT?
BECAUSE I'M PREGNANT, THAT'S WHY!
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?
I MEANT, IS THERE ANYTHING I COULD DO TO HELP SHORT OF HAVING THAT PARTICULAR SURGICAL PROCEDURE?
KIRKMAN SCOTT

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ross Perot, Helen Keller, Captain Kangaroo, Isabelle Adjani

Happy Birthday: You'll find yourself in a strange set of circumstances concerning inheritance or other people's money. You'll be a whiz at creating interesting projects for others to invest in. You'll be drawn to seminars that will help you develop your self-awareness. Travel for business or pleasure will be advantageous. Your numbers are 9, 13, 22, 34, 42, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Sudden changes regarding your friends and acquaintances will take place today. You should feel confident that you will get ahead. Important people will come to your rescue.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You can expect things to be a little uncertain today. Someone may be trying to get something—read between the lines so you don't fall into a trap.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Your interest will be on acquiring much knowledge. Travel should be on your agenda especially if it will bring you into contact with people who can enlighten you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): It's time to go over your books and find out where you stand financially. If you've been overspending you can expect to experience limitations. Talk to a financial advisor.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may be put on the spot today regarding a partnership. You may have to make a solid commitment. An older friend or relative may be able to shed some light on your situation.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't take what someone says as the gospel. Do your own research and come up with your own answers. This is not the time to overindulge or to take on too much.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): This is the perfect day to do whatever you want to do. Travel for pleasure and social gatherings will be fun. If you are single a new romance will develop through the company you keep.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Do not act on your feelings today. Your romantic attraction may be one-sided. You should be careful not to get into a disagreement with a family member.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take a trip that will allow you to relax and enjoy yourself. Travel will be conducive to meeting new friends and potential partners. It will be easy for you to adapt to any changes.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Lots of changes are evident. Present your ideas to those with insight and more experience. Advancement is likely if you are professional and confident.

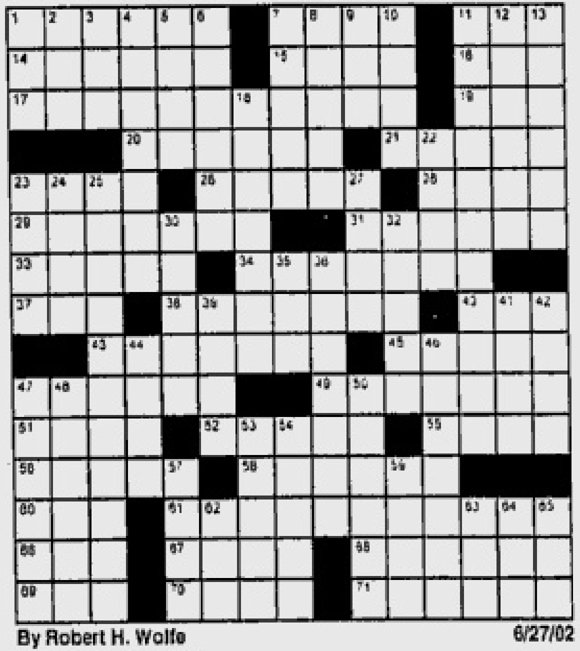
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may find it difficult to decide what you want to do regarding your personal life. Don't let anyone force you into making a decision today. Take time to go out and do something you enjoy by yourself.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Let your creative heart lead the way. You will instinctively know when to make your move. Entertaining colleagues will be in your best interest.

Birthday Baby: You will be precise and to the point. Your ideas will always be practical and well thought-out. You will plan everything carefully and leave no room for error.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

6/27/02

ACROSS
1 Naval group
7 Belgrade man
11 Pointed tool
14 Dog's disease
15 Muse of history
16 Caviar
17 Where amulet-makers learn?
19 2,000 pounds
20 Mess
21 Church recesses
23 Sky bear
26 Plants with intelligence?
28 A lot of land
29 Compels
31 Spanning
33 Shoe salesman, at times
34 Tangle
37 Fuss
38 Bring before the bar
40 Graduate program
43 Abstainer
45 Play part
47 Core groups
49 Stop-sign shape
51 Killer whale
52 Emerge from a shell
55 Air out
56 Star of "Pollyanna"
58 Leave the Union
60 Feather scarf
61 Where big herbivores learn?
66 Double curve
67 __ fixe
68 Asian snakes
69 John __ Passos
70 Sheet of glass
71 Medicinal herbs

DOWN
1 Bowlike object
2 Shout from the bleachers
3 Economics deg.
4 Fee for flight
5 Musical sample
6 Take on
7 Synagogue
8 Form a quick union
9 "__ Bravo"
10 Gaucho's weapon
11 Where Garfunkel learned?
12 Suitors
13 Visual aids
18 Some relief pitchers
22 One of Henry VIII's six
23 USC rival
24 Thoroughfare
25 Where Minutemen learn?
27 Warbled
30 Wading bird
32 Shakespearean contraction
35 Highlands' denial
36 Wind from the Sahara
39 Step on it
41 Soon
42 Took off
44 __ Roberts U.
46 Early human
47 Searched thoroughly
48 Operatic vocal style
50 Inspects
53 Vail rival
54 Conical abode
57 Liner
59 Challenge
62 Actress Lupino
63 Slender prong
64 Actress Hagen
65 Draft letters

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

E	P	I	C	■	C	A	L	L	A	■	M	A	M	A
L	E	D	A	■	O	N	I	O	N	■	O	D	I	N
B	A	L	M	■	H	A	N	D	T	O	H	A	N	D
A	L	E	P	P	O	■	T	E	E	N	A	G	E	R
■	■	■	B	E	R	G	■	■	■	S	W	E	D	E
C	H	E	E	K	T	O	C	H	E	E	K	■	■	■
L	A	D	L	E	■	B	L	E	A	T	■	M	A	R
O	R	A	L	■	C	L	A	I	R	■	P	E	S	O
D	I	M	■	T	R	E	S	S	■	E	R	N	S	T
■	■	■	M	O	U	T	H	T	O	M	O	U	T	H
A	P	R	I	L	■	■	■	S	A	I	L	■	■	■
W	H	I	T	E	C	A	P	■	T	R	O	W	E	L
F	A	C	E	T	O	F	A	C	E	■	N	O	L	O
U	S	E	R	■	W	R	Y	E	R	■	G	R	I	P
L	E	S	S	■	L	O	S	E	S	■	S	M	E	E

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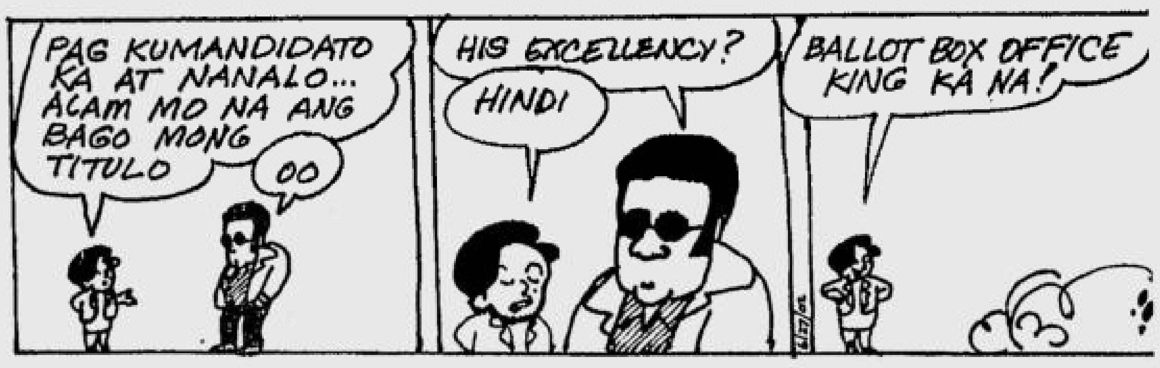
6/27/02

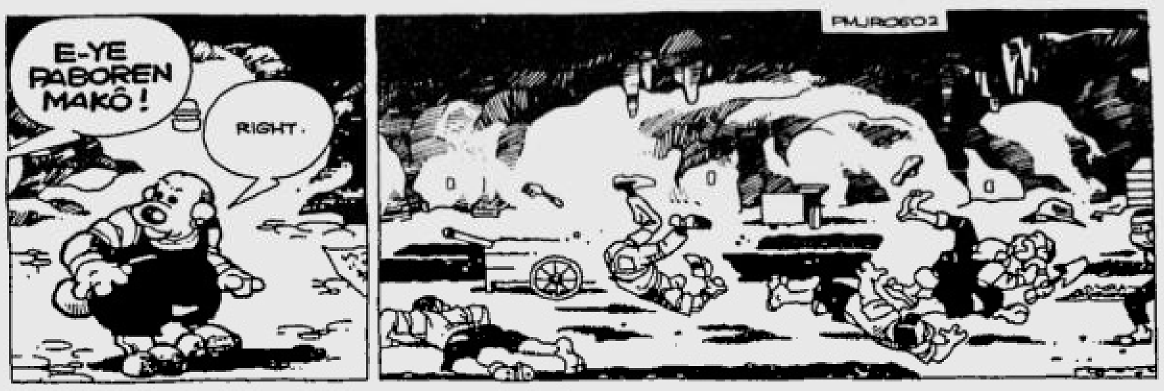
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


PAG KUMANDIDATO KA AT NANALO... ALAM MO NA ANG BAGO MONG TITULO
OO
HIS EXCELLENCY?
HINDI
BALLOT BOX OFFICE KING KA NA!

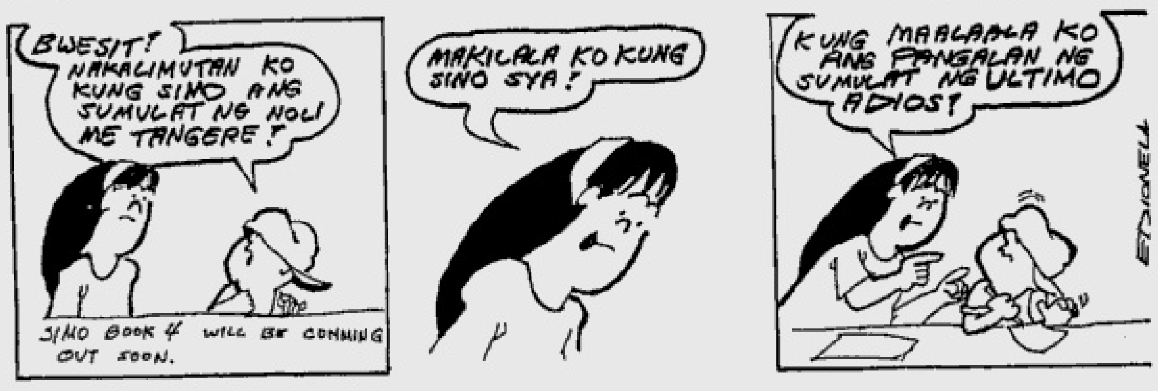
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


E-YE PABOREN MAKÔ!
RIGHT.
PMJR0602

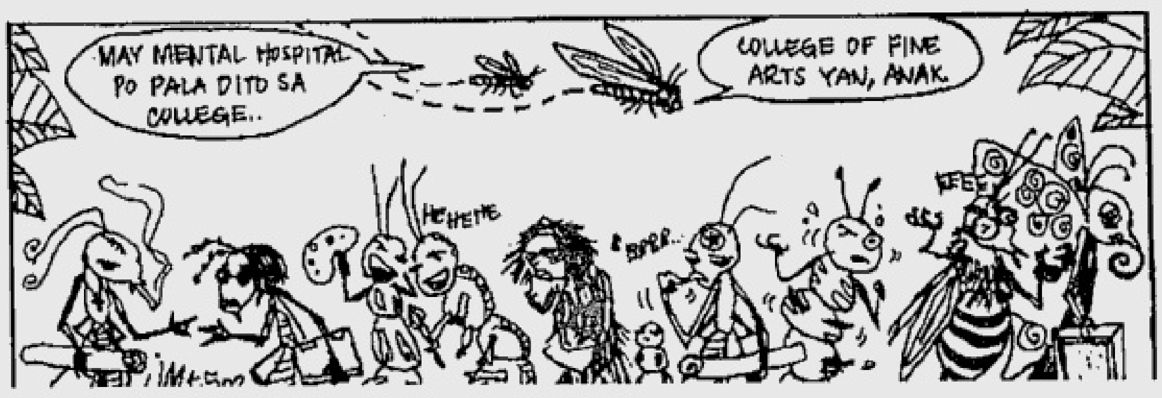
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


BWESIT! NAKALIMUTAN KO KUNG SINO ANG SUMULAT NG NOLI ME TANGERE!
SIMO BOOK 4 WILL BE COMMING OUT SOON.
MAKILALA KO KUNG SINO SYA!
KUNG MAALALA KO ANG PANGALAN NG SUMULAT NG ULTIMO ADIOS!
EDIONELA

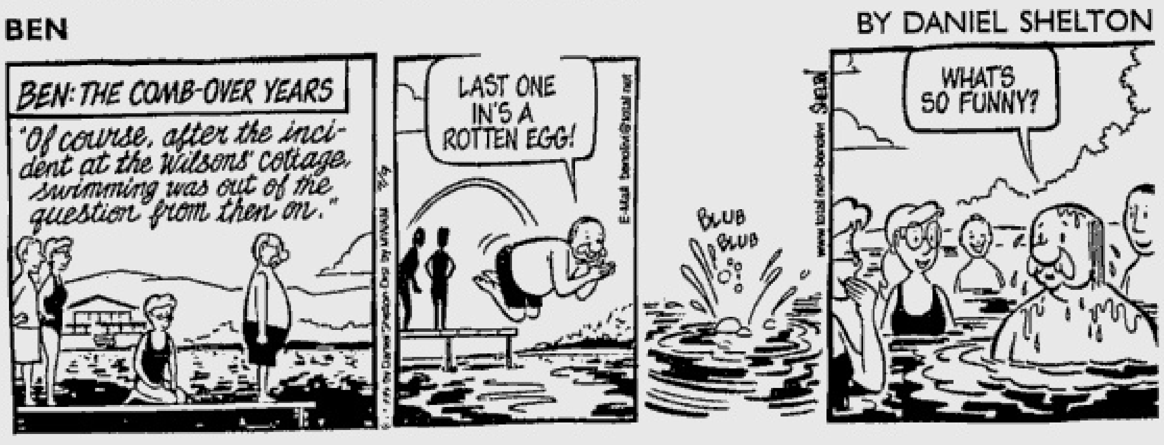
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


MAY MENTAL HOSPITAL PO PALA DITO SA COLLEGE..
COLLEGE OF FINE ARTS YAN, ANAK.
HEHEHE
BRRR..

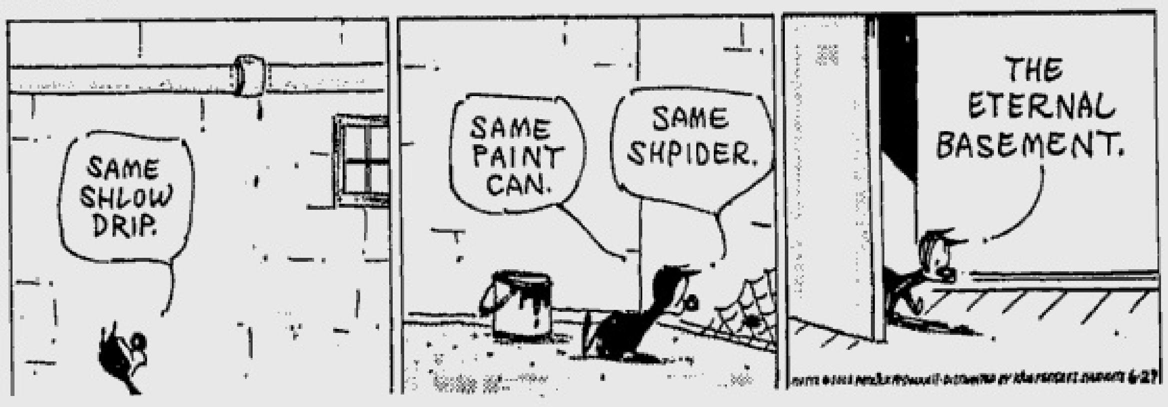
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


BEN: THE COMB-OVER YEARS
"Of course, after the incident at the Wilsons' cottage, swimming was out of the question from then on."
LAST ONE IN'S A ROTTEN EGG!
BLUB BLUB
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

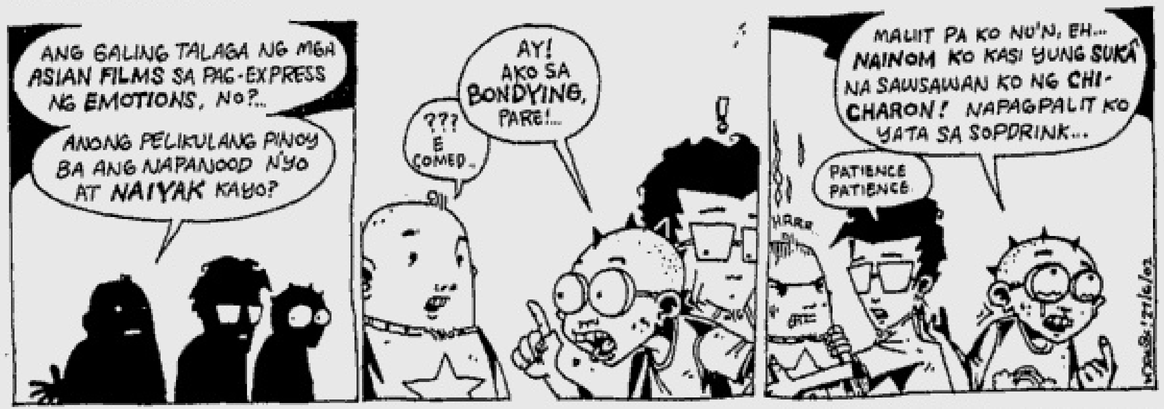
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SAME SHLOW DRIP.
SAME PAINT CAN.
SAME SHPIDER.
THE ETERNAL BASEMENT.
6-27

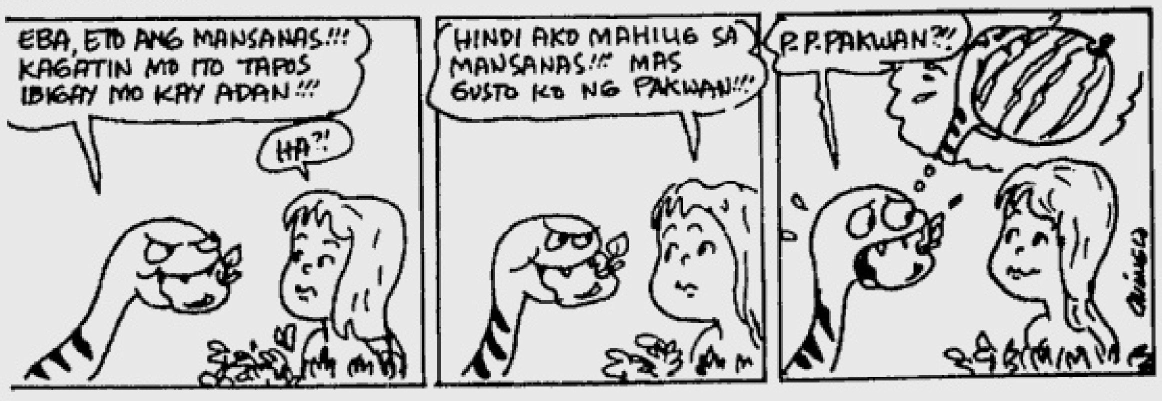
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ANG GALING TALAGA NG MGA ASIAN FILMS SA PAG-EXPRESS NG EMOTIONS, NO?..
ANONG PELIKULANG PINOY BA ANG NAPANOOD N'YO AT NAIYAK KAYO?
??? E COMED..
AY! AKO SA BONDYING, PARE!..
MALIIT PA KO NU'N, EH... NAINOM KO KASI YUNG SUKA NA SAWSAWAN KO NG CHICHARON! NAPAGPALIT KO YATA SA SOPDRINK...
PATIENCE PATIENCE
HARR

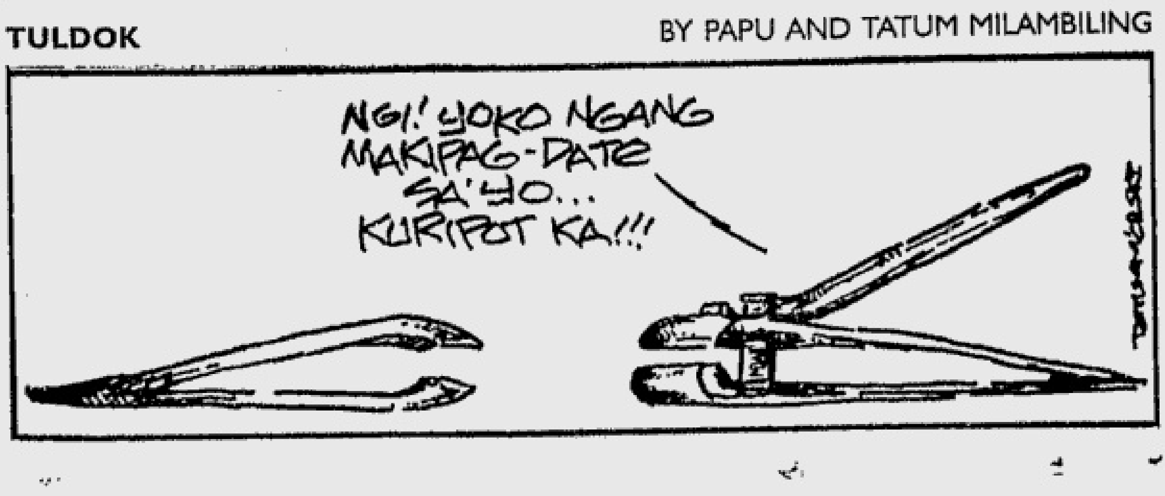
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


EBA, ETO ANG MANSANAS!!! KAGATIN MO ITO TAPOS IBIGAY MO KAY ADAN!!!
HA?!
HINDI AKO MAHILIG SA MANSANAS!!! MAS GUSTO KO NG PAKWAN!!!
P.P.PAKWAN?!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NGI! AYOKO NGANG MAKIPAG-DATE SA'YO... KURIPOT KA!!!

Dishes flavored with olive oil

YOU could make a whole meal out of these recipes, all of which use Pietro Coricelli lemon-flavored extra virgin olive oil. Serve the Sole Amandine with steamed rice and green salad with the lemon-basil dressing on the side, then finish with taisan, whipped cream and strawberries for dessert. The Pietro Coricelli Olive Flavored Oil line comes in three variants—lemon, chili-garlic and basil.

Sole Amandine

4 oz (about 2/3 cup) blanched, sliced almonds
1 kg *dapa* fillet, left whole
4 tbsp Pietro Coricelli lemon-flavored extra virgin olive oil
¼ tsp black pepper
2 tbsp finely chopped parsley

Toast the sliced almonds in a heavy skillet over medium heat, stirring constantly, until lightly browned. Place the fillet of sole in a baking dish. This should be the same dish that you will serve because it will be difficult later to transfer the fish. Drizzle the fish with lemon oil and sprinkle with black pepper. Cover the fish with toasted almonds. Bake the fish in a 350°F oven for about 25 minutes or until done (fish will be opaque). Do not overbake. Garnish with chopped parsley. Serves 8.

Green Salad with Lemon Basil Dressing

Assorted lettuces and greens, washed and patted dry
Sliced black olives
Quartered tomatoes
Kesong puti, cubed

Lemon basil dressing:
½ c Pietro Coricelli lemon-flavored extra virgin olive oil
2 tbsp imported white vinegar
2 cloves garlic, crushed
1 tbsp chopped fresh basil leaves
Salt and pepper to taste

Combine lettuce, black olives, tomatoes and *kesong puti* in a salad bowl. Chill until ready to serve.

Just before serving, whisk together all the ingredients for the salad dressing in a small bowl. Serve the dressing on the side.

Taisan

2¼ c cake flour
1 c sugar
1 tbsp baking powder
6 egg yolks
½ c water
½ c Pietro Coricelli lemon-flavored extra virgin olive oil
6 egg whites
½ tsp cream of tartar
2 tsp lemon rind
3 tbsp melted butter
2 tbsp sugar

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Combine in a large bowl the cake flour, 1 c sugar and baking powder and make a well in the center. Add the egg yolks, water and lemon flavored oil; beat until smooth. In another bowl beat the egg whites and cream of tartar until stiff. Fold the egg whites lemon peel into the first mixture. Pour the batter into greased fluted molds, filling them 2/3 of the way up. Bake for about 25 minutes or until lightly golden. Remove the taisan from the mold and brush with the melted butter. Sprinkle with 2 tbsp of sugar. The cakes may be individually wrapped in cellophane.

Pietro Coricelli
Condimento di Olio di Oliva Extra Vergine
al Limone
250 ml. ℮

Try Tiramisu

THE MAYA Kitchen Culinary Arts Center (tel. 892-1185) shares the following Tiramisu recipe with Lifestyle readers:

Broas:
4 egg yolks
4 egg whites
2/3 c confectioners' sugar
¾ c Gold Medal cake flour
½ tsp salt
½ tsp vanilla
Confectioners' sugar for dusting

Cheese Filling:
1 1/3 c cream cheese
¼ c corn syrup
1 tsp brandy
¾ c confectioners' sugar
2 egg yolks
1 ½ c all-purpose cream

Coffee Syrup:
1 ½ c water
2-4 tbsp coffee liqueur
2-4 tbsp coffee powder

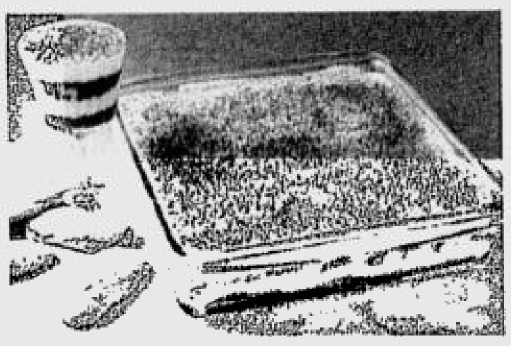
Preheat oven to 350°F. Generously grease 2 baking sheets. Set aside.

In a bowl, beat egg yolks until light in color and very thick. Set aside. In a separate bowl, beat egg whites until soft peaks form. Add sugar gradually and continue beating until stiff. Fold the egg whites into the egg yolks. Sift the flour and salt together. Fold into the egg mixture. Blend in the vanilla.

Transfer mixture into a pastry bag then pipe out strips about 3 inches long. Sprinkle with confectioners' sugar. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes or until edges are brown. Prepare Cheese Filling.

Beat together the cream cheese, syrup, brandy, sugar and egg yolks. Whip the cream separately then fold into cream cheese mixture. Combine the ingredients for the syrup and stir until dissolved.

To Assemble: Cover bottom of a glass dish with broas. Soak with half of the coffee syrup. Top with half of the cheese filling. Put another layer of broas. Soak with remaining syrup and top with the rest of the cheese filling. Spread evenly. Chill until set. Before serving, dust with cocoa powder.



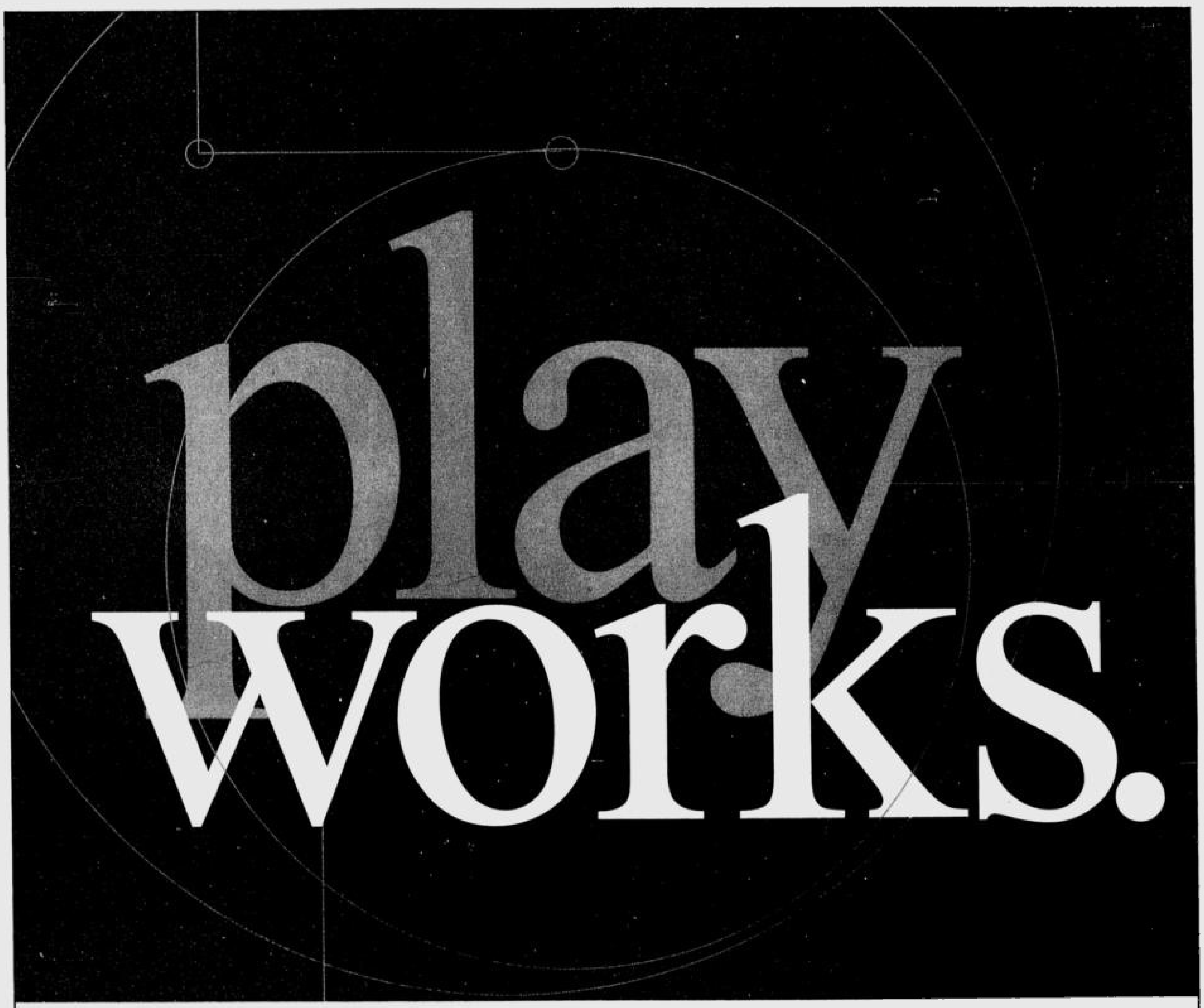
Wham! Bam! It's Spam!

SPAM Spiced Ham, Hormel's banner product, together with Figaro Coffee Company's R&D department, concocted several Spam recipes to add flavor, tradition and nostalgia to Figaro's menu. Available now at Figaro's full menu stores for breakfast, lunch, *merienda* and even dinner, are Spam Alfredo, Spam Croque, Spam Benedict, Spam Salad Cones, Spam à la King and Spam Bakes. The most popular item is the Spam Croque, a hearty layered Spam and cheese sandwich toasted on a panini grill. This goes very well with Figaro's brewed coffee or Figaro's special recipe Iced Tea.

Reena Francisco, head of Figaro's R&D department, together with Hilda Tolentino of Purefoods-Hormel, brainstormed on the use of Spam in Figaro's menu as Spam is a popular meat item in most Filipinos' grocery list. Every Filipino has a Spam craving at one time or another.

Figaro's Spam recipes, however, put a European twist to this definitely American icon. The Spam Bake, for example, is a slightly sweet, slightly salty but absolutely delicious take on bakes. "What we've done," said Chit Juan, Figaro CEO, "is make an all-American favorite into something totally European."

Figaro is a homegrown coffee chain with over 25 locations and has also opened a store in Hong Kong recently. Visit www.figarocoffee.com.



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SPANISH cuisine by Andale

SALADS, soups and sandwiches from Toast

The delicious power of choice

By Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Betoy Johnson

FAST food, whether in food courts or not, literally means meals prepared in haste and served in an instant—mediocre ingredients, run-of-the-mill fare and boring selections. But the dilemma when eating out in food courts is choosing which among five or so outlet has the tastiest grilled fish or *adobo*. Well, good luck. The truth is, they all taste alike, save for a few that completely insult the taste buds.

The new 2,000-sq-m Greenbelt 3 Food Choices promises—and delivers—a new casual dining experience for the wary and jaded foodie. "We create restaurant food out of fast food so that diners always have great meals to eat seven days a week," says Francis Roxas, general manager for Ayala Land Inc.'s (ALI) Food Court Co. Inc. and ALI senior division manager. "Where else can you find a food court that offers *paella* to its diners?"

To realize the restaurant food concept, Roxas says Food Choices purposely veered away from the typical food court restaurants. In a period of eight months to one year, Roxas says they screened about 40 restaurants. "We asked them to bring down their prices without sacrificing quality," he says. The Greenbelt team painstakingly went over the details of food preparation and consistency. It tasted each item on the menu before narrowing down the list to the final 11.

Select choices

"We wanted to have fewer tenants with a broader menu," he says. And fewer tenants mean bigger restaurant space—25 sq m each, the biggest among all food courts—which Roxas says translates to a feeling of dining inside restos sans the cafeteria ambiance. Murals adorn the walls and the colorful layered pattern brightens the ceiling. In fact, the table-and-chair arrangement is deliberately not aligned to avoid the stiff, military mess-hall look.

Food Choices has only one of each concept restaurant with a variety of items on its menu. It means diners can narrow down their choices, tarry in one spot and decide which is better—*croquitas de pollo* or *mejillores al horno*. Choose among Shin Kanzen (Japanese), Gloria Maris Wok Shop (Chinese), Mama Nita's (Filipino), Circo Steak & Seafood (grill), Ceya (Asean), Tender Bob's Express (American), Thai BBQ (Thai), Andale (Spanish), Sorabol (Korean), Bellini's (Italian) and for dieters and health-conscious diners, Toast (soup, salad and sandwich bar).

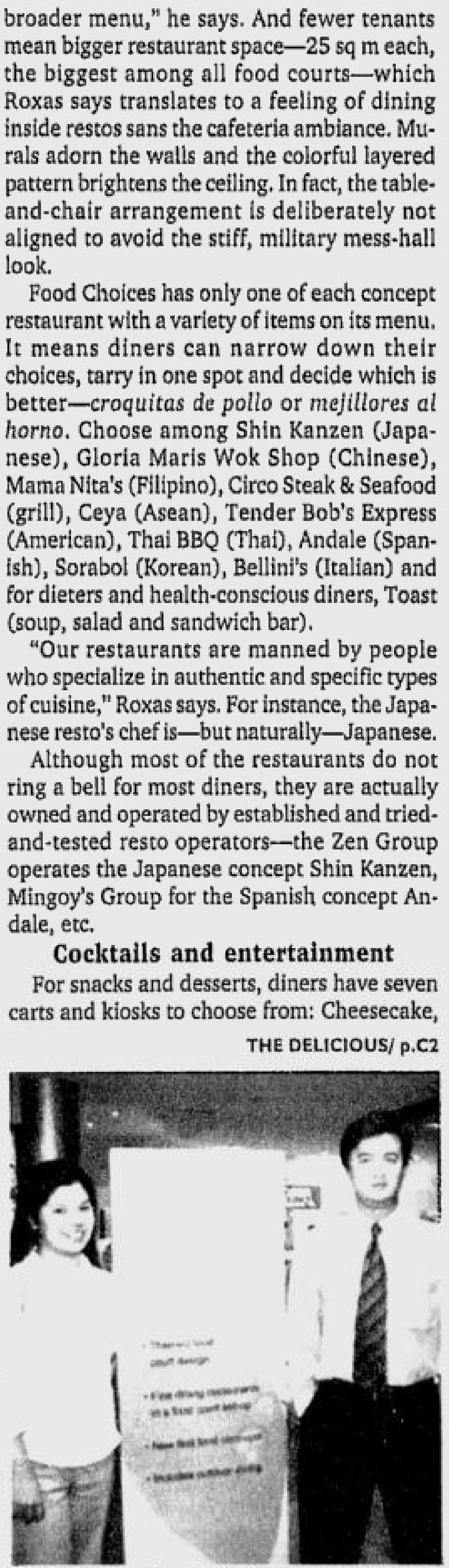
"Our restaurants are manned by people who specialize in authentic and specific types of cuisine," Roxas says. For instance, the Japanese resto's chef is—but naturally—Japanese.

Although most of the restaurants do not ring a bell for most diners, they are actually owned and operated by established and tried-and-tested resto operators—the Zen Group operates the Japanese concept Shin Kanzen, Mingoy's Group for the Spanish concept Andale, etc.

Cocktails and entertainment

For snacks and desserts, diners have seven carts and kiosks to choose from: Cheesecake,

THE DELICIOUS/ p.C2



REGINA Ignacio, Ayala Land Inc.'s Food Court Co. Inc. operations manager, and Francis Roxas, general manager

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at kakang gata

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LIFESTYLE

PAELLA
Langostinos

A sumptuous repast of paellas

Text by Constantino C. Tejero
Photos by Joan Bondoc

Trust the indestructible Don Anastacio de Alba to satisfy your craving for authentic and soulful Spanish food

MOST of the popular Filipino dishes served in fiestas, such as *adobo, afritada, pochero, carne frita, menudo, arroz á la Valenciana*, are early Asiatic fusion—that is, they're really our versions of Spanish cuisine modified with native ingredients. To satisfy one's craving for "authentic and soulful Spanish food," one goes to Spanish restaurants specializing in the original versions of those dishes.

Now the table is turned. Two weeks ago, Don Anastacio de Alba, the acknowledged dean of Spanish cuisine in the country, introduced his 12 new versions of that quintessential Spanish dish, the paella.

This time, the one-pot feast based on saffron rice, perfected in Spain's southeast Mediterranean coast, comes in versions either using local ingredients such as eel (Paella de Anguilla), duck (Paella de Pato), and octopus (Paella de Pulpo), or integrating local dishes such as *sisig* and *cochinillo* (Paella Filipino).

Last week, when we came for an extended dinner in his place in Makati, we came upon the irrepressible Señor Alba surrounded by riveted listeners. (The man spoke almost nonstop from 8 p.m. to past midnight!) His story about how he put up his chain of restaurants in Manila paralleled half a century of Philippine modern history.

Fabulous eateries

He was from Avila, cradle of saints. He came to the Philippines in 1952, and almost immediately found himself at home. After working for two years in Casino Español, he opened Alba Cocina Española on Isaac Peral Street (now UN Avenue).

Then there followed a fabulous chain of eateries that rose and fluctuated with the economy and politics of the country: Alba on Floria Street (now Maria Orosa); Alba Restaurant and Super Club on Dewey Boulevard (now Roxas Boulevard); Taberna Gitana in Quezon City; La Parilla and Patio Flamenco on Roxas Boulevard; Alba Patio de Makati at Doña Narcisa Building; Jardin de Alba at the Greenhills Complex; The Bull and Bear Club at the Makati Stock Exchange; the DBP executive canteen; and La Mancha at the Magallanes Commercial Center.

With a change of fortune, he gave up his holdings and returned to Spain with his family. Two years later, he came back to the Philippines and, in 1980, opened Casa Colas at 38 Polaris St., Bel-Air, Makati City. The place is now Alba Restaurante Español. In March, it opened a branch on Tomas Morato and Scout Lozano Streets in Quezon City.

It has the look of an Antillean house, the interior painted in earth tones, giving the impression of stucco and terracotta. Bright murals and somber portraits adorn the walls. Old photographs of staff, crew and patrons have been collaged in the antechamber.

Now in his 70s, Señor Alba has handed over the management of the two restaurants to his youngest son Miguel Angel, who's helped by his wife Cachelle. Miguel is the only one of the Alba siblings who has pursued their father's passion for cooking.

Simple classic

Miguel's concoction of the classic Caesar salad is simple (just the usual romaine lettuce with bits of croutons and crumbled bacon) yet made memorable by its somewhat tangy dressing (egg yolk whipped in olive oil, a dash of anchovy, and we don't know what else he put in it).

Here, simplicity is the soul of the cuisine. Even the *tapas* are never fussy, concocted and served simply, so that everything has a taste that's clean on the palate.

A SUMPTUOUS/ p.D3

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JULY SCHEDULE

July 1, Authentic Thai/P850-Authentic Chicken Thai Style, Pork w/ Basil leaves, Chicken Breasts w/ Cashew Nuts, Shrimp w/ chili sauce. July 3, Best of Homemade Pies/P900-Banana Caramel Pie, Mango Cream Pie, Best Ever Walnut Pie, Peach Walnut Pie. July 5 Best of Chicken Special/P900-Cheesy Crumbed Chicken, Chicken w/ Sherry Mushroom sauce, Chicken Alexander. July 6, Best of Beef Special/P1000-Beef Strips Tenderloin, Crispy Beef in Spiced Salt, Korean Bulgogi, Special Roast Beef. July7, Make Your Own Character Cake/P1900-Character Cakes for Birthdays &Choco-Candy Lollipops. July 8, Old Fashion Delicious Cakes / P900-Custard Cake, Choco Decadent w/ Butterscotch, Caramel Cake, Pandan Cake, Ube Cake. July 10, Special Empanadas / P750 Chicken Mozzarella Empanada, Beef Empanada, Flaky Pork Empanada. July 12, Quick Delicious Desserts(No Bake)/P850-Italian Tiramisu, Blueberry Cheesecake Cheesecake, Mango Ice Box, Banana Caramel Cream Pie. July 13,Fabulous Cookies/P800 Peanut Butter Chunks, Macadamia Chunks, Double Chocolate Chips, Thumbprint Cookies. July 14, Best Ever Recipes/P1000-Special Pastel, Ox Tongue w/ Buttersauce, Adobong Alimango, Almond Float. July 20, Assorted Pastries/P900-Choco Eclairs, Sylvannas, Pulvoron, Macaroons, Cream Puff, Chewy Crinkles,Pili Pastillas July 21, No Bake Special Cakes/P850-Chewy Walnut Cake, Oreo Cheesecake, White Chocolate Mousse Cake, Chocolate Fruit & Nut Fudge / Melt in the Mouth PorkDishes / P850-Special Braised Pork Loin w/Prunes, Melt in the Mouth Pork Belly, Apricot Glazed Ribs, Pork Oriental. July 24,Special Yummy Cheesecake/P900-Blueberry Cheesecake, Macadamia Brittle Cheesecake, New York Style Cheesecake, Cheesy Cupcake. July 26-27 /P2850 Quick Easy Fondant Cake for Weddings / Special Cakes. July 28,Best Catering Recipes/P1200-German Meat Loaf, Coco Beef Saute, w/ Fried Garlic, Spinach Mushroom Roulade, Baked Macaroni, Oatmeal Leche Flan. Bars & Brownies, Special Assorted Cakes & Special Orders or Special Lessons available. Call/visit us for complete schedule.

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website: www.managingyourweight.com
address: Roche(Philippines)Inc., 2252 Don ChinoRocesAve., MakatiCity
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Nuts From The Days Of Yore
If nuts could only tell their tale, then Pistachios would most likely be regaling us with myths from a very distant past.

Believed to have originated from the Holy Land, these age-old nuts grew wild and abundant in the high desert regions of the Middle East, where stories of romance and greed surround this rare delicacy. Legend has it that lovers met beneath the trees to hear the PISTACHIOS open on moonlit nights for the promise of good fortune! At a time when they were considered an indulgence, PISTACHIOS were also a favorite of the Queen of Sheba, who hoarded all of Assyria's production for herself and her court. Pleased with her bounty and delighted by the shape of the cracked nuts which resembled smiling lips, she decided to make PISTACHIOS a symbol of happiness.

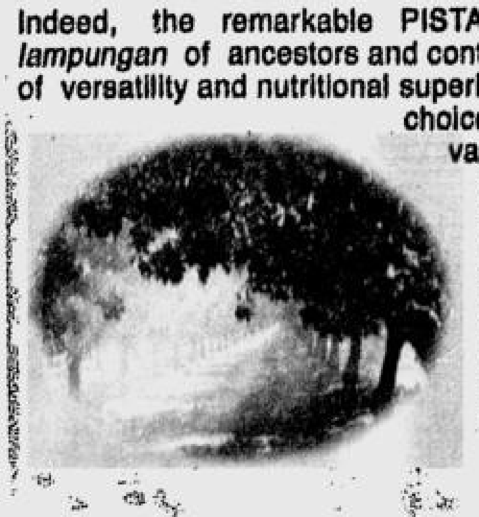
PISTACHIOS are one of the "founding crops" in the Fertile Crescent. Their earliest cultivation began when hunter-gatherers shifted to an agrarian society. A member of the cashew family, its relatives include the mango, poison ivy, poison oak, and sumac. PISTACHIOS probably developed in interior desert areas, since it requires long, hot summers for fruit maturation.

Tough Nut Cracks Time Barriers
PISTACHIOS were first commercialized in Iran, until the royal nut was imported by American traders in the 1880s. Fast-forward 50 years, experimental plantings began in California, which was the perfect host with its desert-like climate. PISTACHIOS eventually became a popular snack food, introduced in, of all places, vending machines! Over the years, California production has increased so rapidly that it has all but eliminated the need to import PISTACHIO into the US.

Commercial plantings in California did not develop until 1970; where full production from orchards is presently realized. The entry of California PISTACHIOS in the marketplace made available nuts with clean, naturally tan shells. California's Kerman variety is also larger in size and has a more vibrant green color. Today, California continues to be the second largest producer of quality PISTACHIOS.

Indeed, the remarkable PISTACHIO has evolved from being the *lampungan* of ancestors and contraband of historical figures, to a morsel of versatility and nutritional superiority. They make an excellent snack choice because not only do they combine valuable nutrients with great taste; their high fiber content also makes them incredibly filling. As an ingredient or a substitute in baking and cooking, they make a good thing taste even better. They add a distinctively delicate flavor, as well as unique color and texture to appetizers, salads, entrees, and desserts!

CALIFORNIA PISTACHIOS



Bantay Bata kids learn to cook pancakes

IT was a welcome change. Like any children's party, it had guests, food and games, and even giveaways. But unlike the usual children's party, it had special guests learning to cook their own food, playing their own unstructured games, and getting healthy and handsome back-to-school gifts for their effort.

A mid-morning to afternoon party was recently held at Kids at Work in Glorietta. The special guests were wards of ABS-CBN's Bantay Bata Foundation. Kids of Pancake House's regular customers were also invited. The event was the Pancake House Kids at Work.

Bernadette Lee, Pancake House marketing and sales director, kicked off the event and shared nutrition facts, getting answers from her young, intelligent audience.

What goes into every pancake? Egg, milk and flour.

What does the protein in egg give us? It gives us muscles.

What does the calcium in milk give us? It gives us strong bones.

What does the carbohydrates in flour give us? It gives us energy.

A Pancake House staffer then demonstrated to the kids how the Pancake House specialty is made. Break eggs; add corn oil to eggs, mix well until blended; add milk and water; continue mixing; add pancake flour gradually; and mix until lumps are broken. On a preheated Teflon pan, pour batter. Cook until bubbles burst. Flip and cook until golden brown.

MACKY Morales receives his prize for cooking the best pancake from Macky Macaalay, director for corporate plannning of Pancake House, while Bernadette Lee, director of sales and marketing, looks on.

After the short demonstration, the guests were grouped into four color-coded teams, each with an adult Pancake House staffer to assist them. As they donned their chef's hat and apron, the children prepared the batter; took turns in pouring the batter on the hot plate, turning the pancake over, and capping off their accomplishments with butter and syrup.

The joy and sense of accomplishment in cooking a simple meal were obvious in the children's smiles. To their surprise, two kids were given prizes for cooking the perfect pancakes. Given the best pancake awards were Nina, a Bantay Bata ward, and Macky Morales, a grade schooler from San Agustin, Makati.

As they examined each other's pancake, 8-year-old Tinkerbell Morales said, "I enjoyed it very much because I learned how to cook, and this is the first time I did this. I will show my mom my new skill, that I can now cook merienda for her and myself, too."

After the kids were treated to spaghetti, fried chicken and tacos, the children were given free reign of the Kids at Work facilities, climbing over steps, diving into plastic balls or just simply running after each other.

It was truly a wonderful day for the children of Bantay Bata.

BANTAY bata kids take turns in pouring and flipping the hotcakes on the hot plate.

Campbell's
FREE
Campbell Kids mug
in 4 collectible designs

CAMPBELL KIDS MUG PROMO PACK

CAMPBELL'S soups introduces the Campbell Kids Mugs, free with every purchase of a Campbell Kids Mug Promo Pack. The pack comes with four cans of Campbell's soups: three cans of thick and smooth Cream of Mushroom, and one can of savory Cream of Chicken. The mugs come in four adorable designs, featuring the pudgy, rose-colored faces of Campbell's lovable characters. Hurry and collect them all! Promo packs are available at selected supermarkets nationwide.

Celebrities at fastfood opening

WHILE others prefer to do the traditional ribbon cutting and store blessing ceremony to mark a store opening, Jollibee Banawe opted for something different and turned theirs into a celebrity night with a back-to-back concert of some of Manila's top performers.

Jollibee Banawe managing director Christine Villar-Pineda, assistant managing director LJ Chipeco, and the rest of the Villar family table-hopped to ensure that their invited celebrity guests and friends were having a ball. Seen at the party were Martin Nievera, Edu Manzano, Rowell Santiago, Pops Fernandez, Lani Misalucha, Jaya, Joyce Jimenez, Elizabeth Ramsey and Dulce Lucban.

An interesting highlight of the party was the cutting of a giant burger that signified the start of the celebration. This was followed by a concert with top band Time & A Half performing party music like the "Real Thing," "Smooth" and "100% Pure Love." Jed Madela, lead vocalist of Prime Council band, joined them onstage and sang the upbeat tunes of "September" and "Let's Groove Tonight" while concert queen Pops Fernandez performed all-time hits "I Will Survive" and "Hey." Queen of soul Jaya then took over center stage together with vocal group The Opera as they dished out some chart-topping R&B tunes. The crowd was mesmerized with Nanette Inventor's performance and wit. Elizabeth Ramsey brought the house down with her quirky antics picking on some of the country's top musicians like Louie Ocampo, Ric Mercado, Roy Mercado, Lorie Ilustre, Bond Samson and Bobby Taylo. Song goddess Lani Misalucha capped the show with "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me," "Last Dance" and "Could It Be I'm Falling In Love"—three of the most requested tunes that evening.

LANI Misalucha, Jaya, Joyce Jimenez, Edu Manzano, Jollibee mascot, Pops Fernandez and Martin Nievera

Pinoy ice cream brand is Japanese rage

FRUITS in Ice Cream has 100-percent milk-derived fat. Its flavors include Mango, Ube, Halo-Halo, Vanilla, Tsokolate, Cappuccino, Green Tea and Rocky Road. It also has gourmet flavors—Macapuno, Strawberry and Durian.

Conforming to strict world standards for imported dairy products set by the Japanese government, Fruits has been distributed in Japan since 1997. FIC's exclusive distributor, Yoji Kawada of Kobo Company Ltd., says Fruits has done very well in Japan, particularly in specialty shops in Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka, Okinawa and Kyushu. To date, it is the only Philippine-made ice cream that is accepted by the Japan Ministry of Health because it doesn't contain preservatives. Aside from Japan, FIC is also being exported to Hawaii and the US West Coast.

Those interested in setting up their own Fruits In Ice Cream scooping station may call 724-7038 or 724-7048.

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Gourmet pizzas play with flavors

DINING-OUT

LATIN flavor is at an all-time high as Tequila Joe's brings out its pizza specialties this month. Fabulous Seafood features scallops, shrimps and calamari all glazed with the punch of garlic, basil and scallions and capped with a bed of grated *reggiano* cheese. Pepperoni features pepperoni slices stuck on the crust by a blanket of melted cheese. If you want to be wild and cheesy at the same time, TJ's presents Quezos Locos. Tiger shrimps are mixed with roasted garlic in Roasted Garlic and Shrimp Pizza. Sausage Pizza is loaded with *kielbasa*, *andouille*, *chorizo* bratwurst, Italian sausages and roasted red onions. Bacon Cheeseburger features ground beef, cheese and bacon. Conquistadores features wild mushrooms, Italian sausages and Spanish *chorizo*. Tequila Joe's branches are at El Pueblo Ortigas, Glorietta 4 Makati, Alabang Town Center and Ayala Center Cebu.

PIZZA Hut's New American Classic Pizza is big in size with 36 percent bigger than the family size and small in price for as low as P299. That's great value for a great tasting pizza. The New American Classic pizza is a whopping 14-inch authentic American pizza with three flavors jam-packed with toppings. Call 911-1111 for delivery.

DULCINEA offers a delicious set of cakes and pastries that are low in calories. Dulcinea's selection of low-calorie cakes include Chocolate Cake, Carrot Cake and Almond Vanilla Cake. If it is the home-baked goodness of their pastries that one craves for, you can now enjoy low-calorie versions of the *pasteleria*'s bite-sized pastries—Cream Puffs, Eclairs, Cesto and Profiteroles. Dulcinea also offers Mango Kiwi Pie and Danish pastries topped with Cherry, Mango, Peach Kiwi and Blueberry. Dulcinea is located at Greenbelt, Rockwell and Tomas Morato.

CATCH the best of Asia's culinary heritage with Garden Café's "A Taste of Asia" until July 7 at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. Lunch and dinner buffet includes Roti Jala (whole-wheat flour crepe) with curry; Ayam Mesak Merah (chicken in spicy tomato sauce); Daging Nasak Kicap (beefstew in soy sauce); Singaporean Hainanese Chicken and Char Koey Teow (fried flat noodles); Thai Pu Lon (crab in coconut cream) and Kung Kamkram Pla (baked *ulang* with spicy sauce), Philippine Lechon (native suckling pig) and Lapu-Lapu Escabeche (garoupa in sweet and sour sauce); Japanese Sushi, Maki and Kani Salad; Korean Bulgogi (beef barbecue) and Kalbi Jim (Braised beef ribs); Indian Shish Kebab (lamb skewers); Indonesian Mee Goreng (fried noodles). As a bonus, those who dine in a group of 20's get a complimentary overnight stay for two. Call 633-8888 loc 2740 or 2741.

LOW SUGAR PASTRIES: Cherry, mango, peach, kiwi, blueberry; and low-sugar pastries (bite-size): cream puff, eclair, profiterole from Dulcinea

BARACCO CAFÉ, newly-opened at M.Y. Orosa Street near corner Pedro Gil Street, has launched its specialties in time for this year's school opening: calamares pasta; hot mousse, hot choco cappuccino and strawberry cheesecake (shown above). Baracco Café, which is open until 4 a.m., also caters to private business meetings, seminars, birthday celebrations and anniversaries.

SANTIS DELICATESSEN offers a different German sausage each month. This June, enjoy the *schweinswurstchen. Wurstchen* are small sausages, part veal and lean pork, seasoned with salt, pepper, pimiento, cardamom and Rhine wine. For easy preparation: Boil or poach for 3 minutes in salt water, then cool and grill. Serve with rice, potatoes, pasta, or on its own with bread and German mustard. This meaty sausage is available at just P33 for 100 g, exclusively at Santis Delicatessen, with branches on Yakal Strret, San Antonio Village, Makati; Forbes Park, Makati; Richbelt Terraces, Annapolis Street, Greenhills; 2/L Filinvest Festival Mall, Alabang; Trans-Orient Maritime Building, Timog Avenue; Kilometer 52, Buho, Silang Cavite; Rockwell Center, Makati; and Astoria Plaza, Amber Avenue, Ortigas.

BUDDIES offers Garlic Adobo Burger, which is served with baked onion slivers, Buddies' juicy burger patties glazed in garlic adobo flavor, iceberg lettuce, tomato slices and ranch dressing. Its regular cheeseburger is jazzed up with dijonnaise dressing and cheddar cheese. Buddies also offers Veggie Burgers, an all-natural, all-organic patties made of different kinds of your favorite veggies. Not to be outdone are their Chicken Wings, which has 15 choices of glaze and 16 kinds of dips. Buddies is located at the Millennium Place, Meralco Ave., Ortigas Center and at G/L Glorietta 3, Ayala Center.

BUDDIES Garlic Adobo Burger

PAELLA Cangrejos

PAELLA de Salmon

A sumptuous repast of paellas

From page D1

The fat oyster baked on half shell with a topping of spinach, breadcrumb and cheese squeezed with a wedge of lemon reaches the tongue with its strong flavor, slides down, then is quickly washed by its slightly briny juice. Even the humble *gambas* and button mushrooms, sautéed in olive oil, garlic and chili, taste rather differently here, simpler in preparation but somewhat elevated in flavor.

Our favorite is *chorizos fritos*, reddish-brown slices of Spanish sausage served in shallow white porcelain bowls, flavorful and homemade.

The restaurant has a curing room where Señor Alba makes his own ham and sausages: *jamon Serrano* (traditionally cured ham, Spain's answer to the *prosciutto*), *chorizo de Bilbao, chorizo de Pamplona, chorizo de Casero* (fresh sausage), *chistorra* (cured spicy sausage), *salchichas Madrileña* (breakfast sausage), *salchichon* (Spanish-style salami with whole peppercorns), *lomitos* (smoked pork loin), *cantimpalos* (Castilian spicy sausage).

Pure taste

Spanish dishes are often rich. To counteract the overwhelming taste, Señor Alba has created in his 12 new paellas sumptuous versions that have only one main ingredient each. Here he is trying to achieve what he calls "a pure taste," something that a *zarzuela* of flavors cannot improve.

If the main ingredients are more than one, their flavors at least harmonize, such as in Paella Filipino, Paella y Parillada (meats, seafood and vegetables grilled into one distinctive smoky flavor) and Paella Verde (asparagus, spinach, peas, green pepper, well blended in the greenish rice).

In good paella, the grains of rice do not stick together but separate when you thrust your fork through it. Only virgin olive oil is used, and honest-to-goodness saffron. It is cooked slowly in a *paellera* until the rice is slightly creamy; yet the grain is whole, tender yet firm—like a good pasta al dente.

Miguel says they're using Japanese rice, and their saffron comes from Spain.

After simmering to perfection in virgin olive oil, the paellas come one after another, and we are served a small portion of each. Our favorite is Paella de Salmon, each grain of rice infused with the rich buttery taste of that noble fish.

Señor Alba says his is Paella de Pulpo (a variant of Paella Negra with tender chunks of octopus instead of stuffed squid, then garnished with shrimps). So we try that, too, and we are surprised to find it has no fishy smell (the secret, says the man, is constant blanching).

Cleanest meat

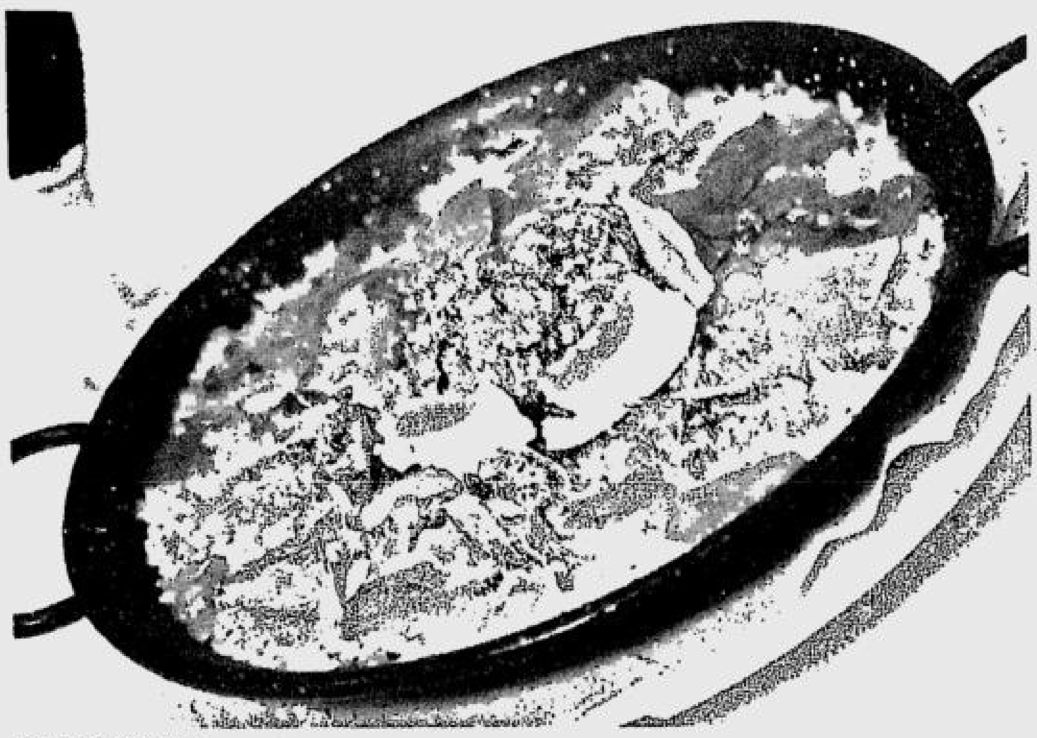
Señor Alba is endorsing particularly the Paella de Conejo, as he believes rabbit is the answer to perennial hunger in the country. "The animal can be raised easily anywhere, and it breeds faster than Filipinos," he laughs. "It is the cleanest meat there is. Pork and poultry are not as clean."

More paellas come for our delectation, including Paella Rejencia (chicken), *pichon* (pigeon), *cangrejos* (crabmeat), *langostinos* (prawns). We just have to try each, accompanied with wine.

By the time the Callos á la Madrileña (stewed ox tripe in rich tomato sauce) and the Lengua Sevillana (stewed ox tongue with mushrooms and olives in rich brown sherry sauce) come, we can hardly move in our seats.

By the time the *canonigo* (soft meringue with vanilla custard sauce) and our brewed coffee come, it is already in the wee hours of the morning. And Señor Alba is recalling his youth, speaking softly of lost loves, we have the impression he's going to burst into a song.

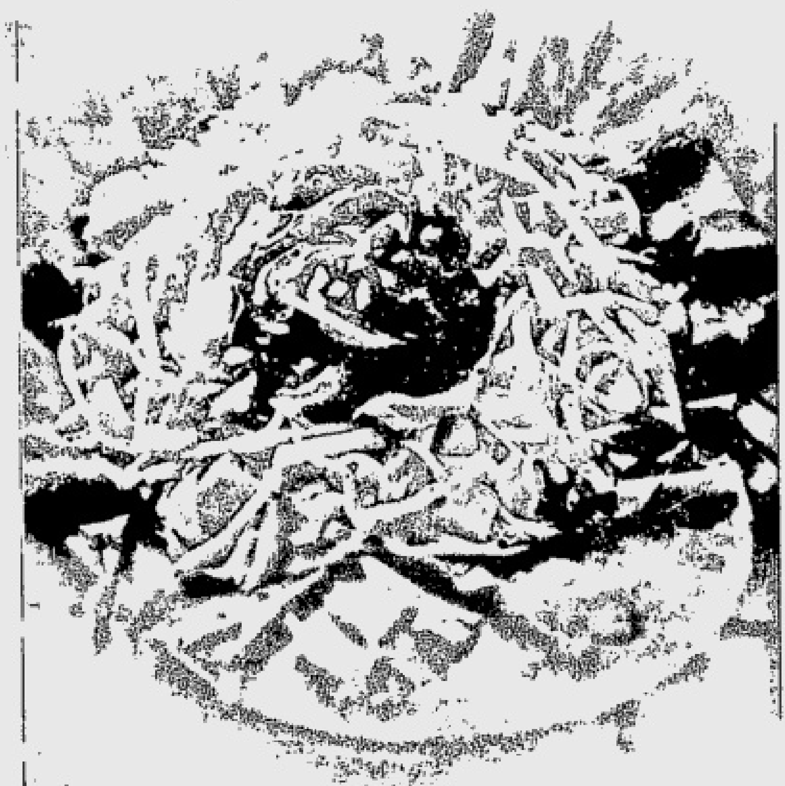
PAELLA Verde

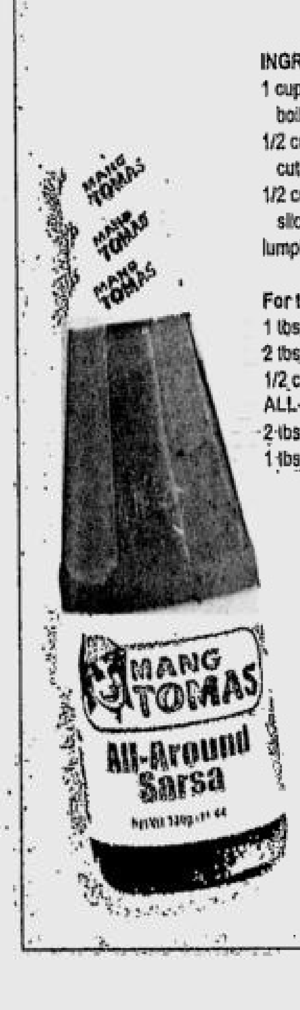


PAELLA Filipino

PAELLA de Pulpo

PAELLA y Parillada





Balutan ng sarap ang
Lumpiang
Hubad!

Gawing hindi basta-basta ordinaryo
ang inyong Lumpiang Hubad.
Buhusan ng bagong sarap ng
Mang Tomas All-Around Sarsa.

Lumpiang Hubad with
Mang Tomas

INGREDIENTS:
1 cup chicken breast, boiled and cut into cubes
1/2 cup water chestnuts, cut into cubes
1/2 cup bamboo shoot, sliced
lumpia wrapper

For the Sauce:
1 tbsp. garlic, minced
2 tbsp. Onion, sliced
1/2 cup MANG TOMAS ALL-AROUND SARSA
2 tbsp. Brown sugar
1 tbsp. Ground peanuts

PROCEDURE:
1. Boil chicken breast and cut into cubes.
2. Cut water chestnuts and bamboo shoots into cubes.
3. Saute garlic in oil until golden brown. Add the chicken meat, water chestnuts, and bamboo shoots. Saute for few more minutes and set aside.
4. For the Sauce: Caramelize brown sugar when starting to melt, add the garlic, onion, Mang Tomas All-Around Sarsa and boil for few minutes. Add the ground peanuts to thicken. Simmer for few minutes to cook.

MANG TOMAS
KUSINA BILIDAD
All-Around Sarap mula sa All-Around Sarsa

Gusto ba ninyong mugka KUSINAbilidad? Abangan pa ang mga susunod na recipes at siguraduhing laging may Mang Tomas All Around Sarsa sa tahanan ninyo. Danil with Mang Tomas, may dagdag sarap sa bawat lutuin.

Wine auction raises funds for Bantay Kalikasan

By Donnie Ramirez
Contributor

THE WINE Company GM Sherwin Lao with Gina Lopez of Bantay Kalikasan

THE WINE Company, a new outfit that locally markets some of the best wines in the world, does not only aim to fulfill its vision of giving wine connoisseurs a splendid selection of value-for-money premium bubblies. At its recent launch at the Manila Polo Club, it also made known its mission to do its share in promoting the preservation of the environment by way of an auction of rare signature wines and earmarking the proceeds for Bantay Kalikasan.

Sherwin A. Lao, The Wine Company's general manager says, "Our company's goal is primarily to give consumers a wide range of choices in taste, price and regional representation. We want to be able to offer the most complete range of wines in the country."

The Wine Company is a sister firm of Premier Wine and Spirits, sole distributors in the Philippines of labels like Absolut, Chivas Regal, Cutty Sark and Jack Daniels. The company's product portfolio includes world-renowned spirits from France, Italy, Australia, Canada, Chile and the US.

The well-attended launch at the Turf Room of the Manila Polo Club was graced by respected names from the international wine community like David Willoughby, vice president and regional director of Jim Beam Brands Asia, and owner of Geyser Peak and Canyon Road Wines; Sandy Penrith, CEO of Logan Wines Pty, Ltd., owners of Monet and Logan Wines; James Ryland of Calvet; Evan Seah, area manager of Wolf Blass Wines; and Alan Wong, regional consultant for Ruffino Wines.

Television newscaster Pinky Webb emceed the program and conducted the auction of collector's item wines, magnums and specially-autographed wines from the world's top winemakers. Some of the items auctioned were a Double Magnum Ruffino Chianti Riserva 1999, signed by owner Adolfo Folonari; Double Magnum Geyser Peak Sonoma Reserve 1998, signed by the winemaker; Logan Cabernet Sauvignon 1997 Orange NSW, signed by winemaker Peter Logan; six bottles of Offley 30-year-old vintage port; two half-bottles of Inniskillin Cabernet Franc Red Ice Wine; two Burgundy wine signed by Sasha Lichin; and a 5-liter bottle of Reserva Cabernet from Viña Sta. Carolina, Antares from Central Valley, Chile.

Manila's wine connoisseurs enjoyed sampling bubblies from around the world. But the happiest woman that evening was Gina Lopez, the moving spirit behind Bantay Kalikasan.

FRENCH Ambassador Renee Veyret

RUFFINO from Tuscany, Italy: Il Leo Chianti Superiore, Riserva Ducale Chianti Classico, Chianti, Riserva Ducale, Orvieto Classico

MONET Chardonnay & Shiraz, Australia

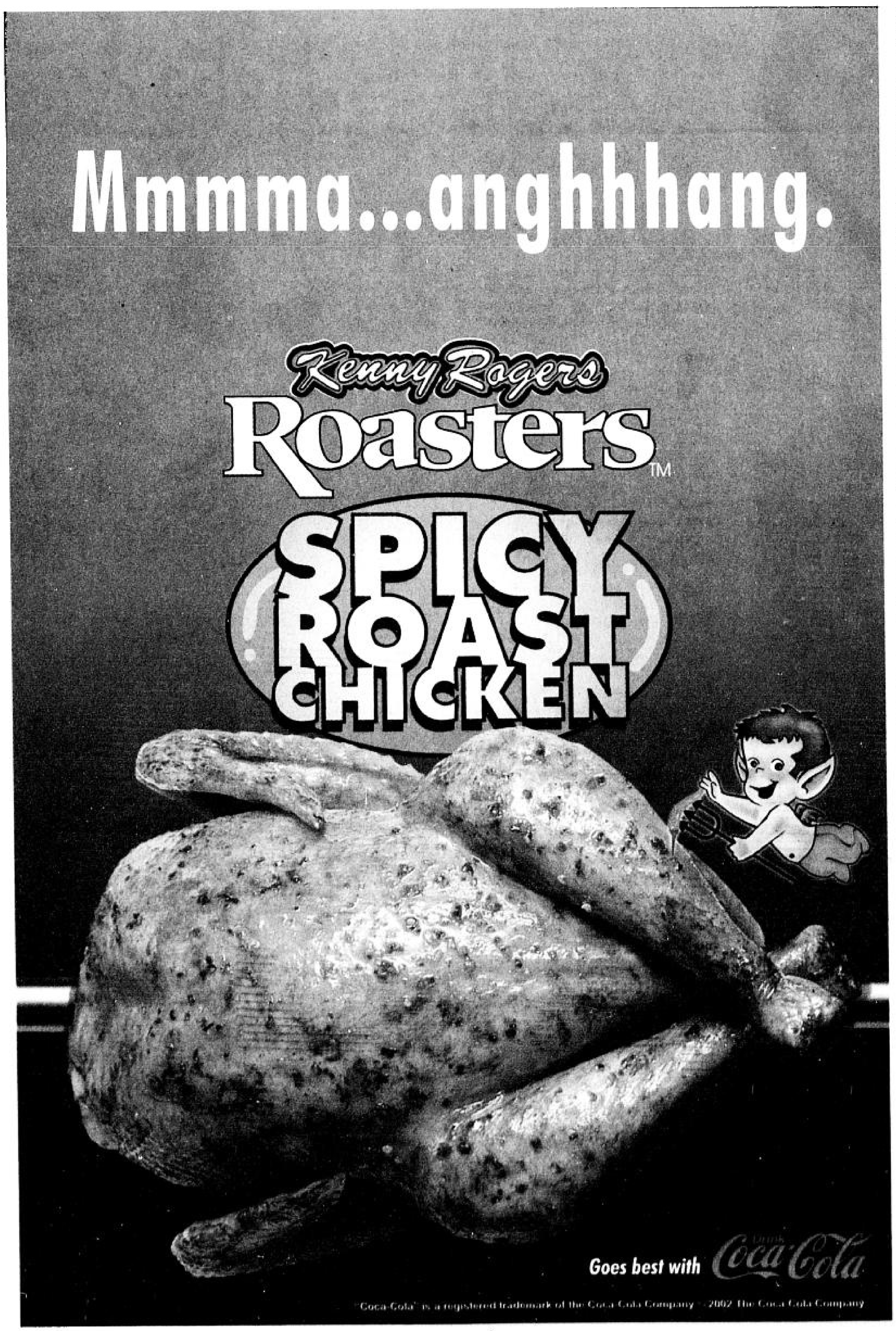
VIÑA Santa Carolina Antares from Chile (L-R): Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay

SANDY Penrith, chief executive of Logan Wines, Australia

ARBOR Mist, Strawberry White Zinfandel and Peach Chardonnay from California, USA

PREMIER Wine Spirits' Ted McDonnell with Jose Miguel Menchecca

WINSTON Kawsek and Charlie Rufino



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